FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT POSTPONES PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS

JN281502Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today issued a decision postponing the celebrations of the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, which were due to take place on 1 January 1979. Our radio correspondent has learned that the postponement was owing to the death of the Algerian struggler leader, Houari Boumediene.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLES FROM SAUDI KING, CROWN PRINCE

JN281503Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday received congratulatory cables from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Saudi Crown Prince Fahd on the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

'ARAFAT MEETS ARAB MONETARY FUND DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS

JN281505Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night met in Damascus with a delegation of the Arab Monetary Fund headed by Dr Jawad Hashim, the chairman of the fund. The delegation outlined to the brother leader the various activities of the fund and the possibility of benefiting from the fund in supporting the decisions of steadfastness and confrontation against Zionist and imperialist attempts in the economic field.

ARAB MILITARY INDUSTRIES ORGANIZATION HOLDS MEETING IN CAIRO

JN271902Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1834 GMT 27 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec--The board of directors of the Arab Military Industries Organization [AMIO] held a meeting here tonight under the chairmanship of Shaykh Faysal ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces and provisional chairman of the board.

In its meetings the board is discussing several topics, including the nomination of a new board chairman to replace Dr Ashraf Marwan, whose resignation was approved by the higher committee of the organization.

The higher committee of the organization is expected to consider the board's decisions at a meeting to be held in January.

AMIO's higher committee is composed of the defense ministers of the member states, which are Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Qatar.

BAHRIAN

DELEGATION LEAVES BOUMEDIENE FUNERAL IN ALGERIA

JN290831Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 29 December--Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior and acting foreign minister, left for Algiers early this morning to attend the funeral of the late Algerian leader Houari Boumediene. The Bahraini minister, who is accompanied by 'Ali al-Mahus, Bahraini ambassador in London, will extend condolences and sympathy from Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. He will also convey the sympathy of the Bahraini people.

UAE

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

JN281132Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 December--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The message was delivered by French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet when he met with Shaykh Zayid today.

The French minister stated after the meeting that he discussed with the UAE president a number of topics of mutual interest. He added that Shaykh Zayid asked him to convey his viewpoints on a number of issues to the French president.

Meets Petroleum Minister

JN281419Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 28 December--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, today received the French foreign minister and discussed with him matters dealing with oil affairs.

Later, Dr al-'Utaybah said that the discussion with French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet dealt with petroleum issues and the results of the OPEC conference held on 16 December in Abu Dhabi. Al-'Utaybah said he informed the French minister of the efforts exerted by his Highness Shaykh Zayid to make the OPEC conference adopt reasonable and balanced decisions, taking into consideration the world economic situation.

Al-'Utaybah also said he assured the French foreign minister, who expressed the consumer states' anxiety over the suspension of oil production in Iran, that the UAE and the other OPEC members states are paying great attention to this emergency situation. Al-'Utaybah assured the French minister that the UAE is completely ready to meet France's oil requirements.

Dr al-'Utaybah said the discussion also dealt with the bases of cooperation between OPEC and the EEC member states, especially France. The discussion also covered the subject of mutual cooperation in the field of alternative sources of energy, such as nuclear and solar energy, as well as in the field of petrochemical industries.

The French foreign minister is expected to leave Abu Dhabi this afternoon, concluding his 2-day official visit to the UAE during which he and the members of his delegation have held talks in the political, economic, cultural and information fields. It is said that the French foreign minister might proceed directly to Algiers to attend the funeral of the late Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

The French foreign minister is expected to hold a press conference before his departure to speak about the outcome of his talks with UAE officials.

Holds Press Conference

JN281444Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 December--His Excellency Francois-Poncet, French foreign minister, began his press conference at 1430 today at the Abu Dhabi tourist club with a statement expressing his thanks to UAE officials for the cordial reception and hospitality accorded him during his visit to the country. Mr Francois-Poncet said: I was very much impressed by this cordiality, and I affirm that my stay along with that of the accompanying delegation has been pleasant, constructive and fruitful. The visit will be a main step to develop relations between France and the UAE.

The French minister said: Today I held talks with his highness the president, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah and the oil minister. Yesterday, I held intensive talks with my colleague the UAE foreign minister. I had a personal letter from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan which I delivered today to his highness. We held talks on all points of joint interest. These interests are numerous and important because France believes that the UAE is a vital partner in finding political solutions in this and other regions in the world.

The French foreign minister added: During my talks with UAE officials, and especially with his highness the president, I explained France's appreciation of the firm, moderate and enligtened stand of the UAE on the region's problems. I found that the stands of France and the UAE on these problems were not only close but similar in most cases.

The minister said: During my meeting with his highness the president, I took the opportunity to thank his highness for granting a piece of land on which the French Cultural Center and the French school are established. These facilities will increase the number of French persons in the UAE and make their lives more comfortable. I have also thanked the president for contributing another piece of land to set up a building for the French Embassy.

On his talks with Dr Mani's Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, the French foreign minister said: I have discussed the oil problems, the recent OPEC decision on prices and the problem of oil supplies. I was very pleased with the UAE minister's explanation of the OPEC decisions and discussions.

The French minister said: We have agreed to develop relations between France and the UAE on three levels: first, the political level, where there will be contacts and unofficial meetings on issues of joint interest. These contacts already exist and must be promoted. Second, the economic level, where many things have already been achieved. There is a wide scope for more economic cooperation, especially since the basis for this cooperation has already been laid down. There are seven French companies now working in the UAE.

Third, the cultural level. I must point out that one of the members of my delegation is an ambassador, appointed by the president of France, who will be in charge of setting up the Arab world center in France. It will be a comprehensive cultural center and will be manned by Frenchmen and Arabs, because we want it to be a paragon of joint cooperation. We also discussed the issue of promoting the teaching of the French language in the UAE.

Leaves for Algeria

JN281811Y Abu Dhabi EMRIATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 28 December--French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet left for Algeria today following an official 2-day visit to the UAE. At a press conference he held prior to his departure, the French minister affirmed that France considers the UAE a vital partner in finding political solutions in this region and other regions in the world.

Regarding France's position on the Middle East issue and the steps it intends to take in this regard, the French minister said: France believes in a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis because it is the only just and durable solution. This solution should be based on the following principles:

1. Withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967.

2. Guaranteeing the internationally recognized borders of all the states in the region.

3. Recognition of the just rights of the Palestinian people.

The French minister said that without these principles there can be no comprehensive solution, and without a comprehensive solution there cannot be a just and durable solution.

Regarding current efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis, the French foreign minister said: We do not yet know the outcome of the negotiations; when we know, we will judge the result on the basis of the principles I have just mentioned.

Asked whether France will pave the way for a roundtable conference in Paris for the parties to the Lebanese crisis, the French minister said: France is ready to do whatever it is asked to facilitate such a dialog. However, it does not put forward special proposals to solve this problem, nor does it propose a particular venue for conducting such a dialog.

Regarding the recent OPEC resolutions, the French minister said: It is not up to us to (? assess) these resolutions in lieu of those who took them. We shall do what we have to do in light of the results of these resolutions so that the French people will be able to handle them. We could have better adjusted to these resolutions had the prices been less than what was decided upon by the recent OPEC conference.

The French foreign minister continued: We are now more anxious about the consequences that these resolutions might have on the world economy in general. We are aware that this economy is facing innumerable difficulties at present. Unemployment is on the rise in the Western world and social problems always lead to political difficulties.

On cooperation between France and the Arab world in the field of armament, particularly through the Arab Military Industries Organization, the French minister said: France cooperates with the Arab world in this field because it believes that, like any other states in the world, the security of the Arab states should not be entirely dependent upon one of the two superpowers. There should be room for a third party. France is one of these third-party states that is ready to respond to these security requisites without imposing any political conditions.

The French foreign minister added: Although I believe that we have a role to play in this domain, cooperation between France and the Arab world should not be restricted to military cooperation only, but should extend to economic and cultural fields as well.

As-Suwaydi Comment

JN281753Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 December--Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmad as-Suwaydi said here today that the French president's letter delivered by the French foreign minister to UAE President Zayid deals with the French viewpoint on international issues, including the Middle East. As-Suwaydi, who was at the airport this evening to see off the French foreign minister, said that France has clearly expressed its position in support of a just peace in the Middle East, taking into consideration the rights of concerned parties, including the Palestinian people.

As-Suwaydi said that the viewpoints of the two sides were very close on various world issues, including the situation in the gulf and Lebanon. The minister added that the two sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in various economic, cultural and information fields and have agreed to continue consultations on the important issues of joint interest.

The minister said: We in our turn fully appreciate the French foreign minister's visit to the UAE at this stage that demands such meetings to exchange viewpoints of interest to the two countries and peoples.

Concluding his statement, the minister said that the visit will actively contribute to promoting cooperation between the two countries in the interest of the French and UAE people.

This evening the French minister visited the French Cultural Center and the French school in Abu Dhabi. He met with the members of the French community working in the state and asked them to cooperate with UAE officials in various fields.

It may be recalled that the visit was to continue until tomorrow morning but was cut short this evening because the minister had to fly to Algiers to take part in the funeral of the Algerian president.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ALGIERS FOR BOUMEDIENE'S FUNERAL

JN290620Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0540 GMT 29 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 December--Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi left for Algiers early this morning at the head of a UAE delegation to attend funeral of late Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The UAE delegation also includes Sa'id Ahmad al-Ghabbash, minister of planning; Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; and other state officials.

YEMEN--PDRY

PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPORTS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

LD2617544Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general, issued a press statement today on the YSP Central Committee's second meeting. The meeting was held 24-25 December to discuss a number of important issues affecting party activities. The Central Committee studied a report presented by the Political Bureau on the first YSP congress and the development of party work to date. The report presented by the Political Bureau also dealt with developments in the northern part of the homeland during the period to date.

"The Central Committee praised the efforts of the Political Bureau and revolutionary government to deal correctly with issues affecting the national struggle. This they have done in conformity with the immediate and long-range goals charted and consolidated by the YSP in all its documents and literature. From a position of historic responsibility the Central Committee stressed its determination persistently to struggle to achieve Yemeni unity and thereby the stability, progress and prosperity of the Yemeni people.

"The Central Committee charged the party and government in the coming period with the task of continuing such efforts within a framework that would guarantee the refutation of conspiracies to incite war between the sons of the single Yemeni people. This framework should also provide opportunities for democratic dialog between the nationalist forces who interact within the arena of the Yemeni homeland in order to achieve the unity of the Yemeni land and people.

"The Central Committee praised the Political Bureau and revolutionary government for all their efforts to bring about unity and stability for the whole of Yemen and to rescue our people from the oppression of terrorism and the tragedies of dreadful backwardness. What is certain is that although these efforts were made in conformity with the sublime standard of love for the Yemeni people, they clashed with the leadership in the San'a' regime, who, imbued with the spirit of subservience to the enemies of our Yemeni people and covered with the mud of terrorism and the blood of their own innocent people, proceeded rashly to [words indistinct] with ignorance and brutality the revolution of the Yemeni people and its colossal gains. The brutal and barbarous crimes being committed against villages and towns in the northern part of the homeland and the ramifications of these acts has made it incumbent on all patriotic forces to devote themselves diligently to the task of defining the true nature of the conflict. This analysis has revealed that the slogan 'Expand the social base of the national struggle against the agent reactionary forces' should lead the patriotic forces in their efforts to give impetus to the struggle and to define the tasks relevant to the facts as they develop within their progressive national and social dimensions.

"The Central Committee having studied the various aspects of the report of the Political Buerau on party conditions and developments within the spectrum of the national cause, has re-examined the extensive activities carried out at the party and official levels.

In the external sphere, it highly appreciated the results of these external political activities, which it described as constituting a practical and accurate implementation of the main guidelines charted by the YSP within the organs of the party in the area of foreign policy. The Central Committee stressed that continued action in this sphere was needed to insure correct implementation of the resolutions of the first congress of the YSP."

SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY HOLDS SESSION, ELECTS OFFICERS

LD271650Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] The Supreme People's Assembly this morning began its first plenary session comprising 111 elected members. The opening session was attended by representatives of party committees and mass organizations, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the republic, representatives of national liberation movements, press and information officials and correspondents of Arab and world news agencies.

Inaugurating the session, brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and former chairman of the Presidential Council, said: the establishment of the assembly coincides with positive circumstances which will enable members to exercise their responsibility and [word indistinct] to the authority and will enable the state machinery to perform its important functions with greater efficiency on the basis of the principle of democratic centralism and in accordance with the constitution and law. These circumstances result from the extermination of the opportunist current, which strove to paralyze the natural development of the democratic authority's institutions and organizations, headed by the Supreme People's Assembly. Now the party's leading role in the revolutionary process taking place in the country has been entrenched.

With the success of the elections, the Presidential Council considers that it has performed its functions since it assumed its responsibilities following the toppling of the opportunitist leftist coup attempt.

After a 15-minute recess, brother Anis Hasan Yahya, chairman of the Appeals Committee, presented the committee's report. He declared the legality of the elections. He pointed out that the committee has received no appeals against the elections. The committee accordingly decided to deem members of the Supreme People's Assembly to be lawful members. The members of the assembly approved the report. Then members of the assembly took the constitutional oath.

The assembly went on to elect the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, with brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il as chairman and brothers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad; Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah; (Sultan Muhammad ad-Dawsh), (Riyad al-Akbari); (Aidah 'Ali Said); (Said Salih Salim); (Mahmud Said Madhi), ('Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim), (Faris Salim Ahmad) and ('Ali Ahmad Nasir as-Sallami) as members. The chairman and members of the Presidium then took the legal oath.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il then made a speech stressing that the members of the Supreme People's Assembly will make every effort to consolidate the authority of the toilers.

He said: The assembly Presidium will strive to conduct the assembly's business in accordance with the constitution and the law. It will not cease to back the activities of the various organs of state and will not permit any violation of the constitution and the law. He praised the great role played by the Presidential Council for having discharged its responsibilities since the 26 June incidents. He also praised the role of the council's members and its chairman and the successful preparations it made for the Supreme People's Assembly elections.

The election of brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad as chairman of the Council of Ministers then took place.

The opening session was then adjourned. The Supreme People's Assembly will reconvene at 1800 today.

Approves New Government

LD272046Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Supreme People's Assembly held its second sitting at 1815 today. The assembly unanimously approved a motion by the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium amending the session's agenda in order to complete it this evening instead of its scheduled time, tomorrow. Earlier its chairman, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, pointed out in a speech presenting the draft motion that this was occasioned by the death of President Boumediene. He went on to announce that a week's mourning would be observed in the PDRY as of tomorrow to mark the death of the Algerian president.

"The Supreme People's Assembly unanimously approved the Presidium's proposal at its meeting this afternoon by electing brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad deputy chairman of the Presidium and brother Fadl Mahsin 'Abdallah secretary of the Presidium. The assembly then unanimously approved the formation of the new government as follows:

"Chairman of the Council of Ministers	Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad
"Minister of Finance	Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad
"Minister of Foreign Affairs	Brother Muhammad Salih Muti'
"Minister of Interior	Brother Salih Muslih al-Qasim
"Minister of Planning	Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali
"Minister of State Security	Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin
"Minister of Defense	Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar
"Minister of Communications	Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh
"Minister of Labor & Civil Service	Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali
"Minister of Installations	Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas
"Minister of Information	Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit
"Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs	Brother 'Ali Asad Muthana
"Minister of Health	Brother Dr 'Abdallah Bukayr
"Minister of Culture & Tourism	Brother Mahmud Najashi
"Minister of Industry	Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir
"Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform	Brother Muhammad Sulayman al-Nasir
"Minister of Fish Resources	Brother Muhammad Salim Akush
"Minister of Education	Brother Sa'id 'Abd al-Khir al-Nuban
"Minister of Trade & Supply	Brother Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli
"Minister of Justice & Awqaf	Brother Khalid Fadl Mansur.

"The chairman and members of the Council of Ministers then took the constitutional oath by signature, after which brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad read out the government's draft program for the next 5 years, in which he expressed his thanks for the confidence the assembly had invested in the government. He stressed that the government would shoulder its responsibilities and duties within the context of its program, which was based on the Yemen Socialist Party's [YSP] program, the basic directives contained in the party's political report and the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the first congress of the YSP in accordance with the constitution.

"Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also stressed that the government, by means of its program, would complete the stage of the democratic national revolution, develop and expand democracy and adopt democratic centralism as a principle for action.

"The brother prime minister explained that the government would regard the second 5-year plan as its economic and social program for raising the people's living standards both materially and spiritually. It would also strive to strengthen the Yemeni expatriates' ties with their homeland, for the sake of their participation in the process of construction and to protect and observe their legitimate rights as guaranteed by international laws and agreements.

"The brother prime minister explained that the government would strive to fulfill the slogan of the party's first congress: Let us struggle to defend the Yemeni revolution, implement the 5-year plan and achieve Yemeni unity. He stressed that the government would strive to increasingly develop the defensive and security apparatuses and turn them into a natural force faithfully protecting and loyally safeguarding the gains of the people from internal and external hostile forces, side by side with the masses of the people.

"Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and Council of Ministers chairman, also stressed that the government was working to serve the interests of the people of Yemen in realizing their greatest and noblest aim: the democratic unity of the land and people.

"On foreign policy, he pointed out that the government would strive to consolidate the militant relations that bind Democratic Yemen to the fraternal Arab states and their liberation and democratic forces. On the basis of the principle of internationalist solidarity and peaceful coexistence among states of different social systems, the government would strive to develop and expand its relations with all countries of the world on the basis of mutual interests and advantage, respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

"He said the government would pay special attention to developing its political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical relations with the states of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. It would exert continuous efforts to enhance the front's efficacy and to help it thwart the imperialist schemes to liquidate the causes of our Arab nation. He emphasized that the government would continue its persistent efforts to promote our country's relations with the countries of the socialist camp, headed by the friendly USSR. The government would devote its efforts to expanding spheres of solidarity and and cooperation with them in order to consolidate the progressive gains achieved by our people, to reinforce the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism, reaction and racism and for the sake of national liberation, social progress and peace in the world."

ADEN REPORTS DIRECT HIT AGAINST SAN'A' AIRCRAFT

LD241604Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Text] The people's revolutionary armed forces in the northern part of the homeland have succeeded in scoring a direct hit on one of the San'a' regime's aircraft in the battles currently going on in the Aal Sirhan area, in Rada region, between the fighters of the people's revolutionary forces and the forces and mercenaries of the San'a' regime.

A military communique issued by the people's revolutionary forces which was broadcast yesterday by the Democratic National Front [DNF] radio said the people's forces engaged the forces pushed into the battlefield by the San'a' regime, including infantry, mercenaries, tanks and aircraft, and inflicted heavy losses on them estimated at 20 killed or wounded. A direct hit was made on one of the aircraft, which was seen leaving the battle area in flames.

The communique said that a woman was killed and several citizens' dwellings were badly damaged when the reactionary San'a' regime's forces resorted to aircraft strafing and heavy artillery shelling.

In the (Dadan) area, in (Sadd) region, Jabal al-Manar was seized and two vehicles taken by the people's revolutinary armed forces and those of the San'a' regime.

YEMEN--YAR

DEPUTY PREMIER TO HEAD DELEGATION TO BOUMEDIENE FUNERAL

JN271732Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, this afternoon received Brother al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al 'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly. The discussion between them dealt with the formation of the delegation that will represent the YAR at the funeral of the late Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

The brother leader has assigned Eng Muhammad al-Junayd, the deputy prime minister, to head our delegation, which will include brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of education and member of the People's Constituent Assembly; Lt Col 'Abdallah Barakat, adviser to the commander in chief of the armed forces; the brother commander of the 7th Armored Brigade; and brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahim.

The delegation will participate in the funeral of the late great leader Houari Boumediene and convey condolences to the Algerian leadership and the fraternal Algerian people. The delegation will leave San'a' tomorrow morning for the Algerian capital.

PRESIDENT EXAMINING RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES

JN281250Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The brother foreign minister has made a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY in which he said that the brother president of the republic is busy studying bilateral relations between the YAR and several other states with the purpose of enabling the YAR to fulfill its pan-Arab obligations and to play its role in the sphere of Arab solidarity. With this in mind, the president of the republic is holding meetings with a number of senior state officials.

AS-SADAT DISCUSSES RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS

NC282116Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 28 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Munich, 28 December--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis must be comprehensive in order that all parties, including the Palestinian people who have suffered greatly from displacement and deprivation, can feel that peace concerns them and that it is a just peace.

In an interview with the weekly German magazine MUNCHNER MERKU, President as-Sadat said that the Palestinian people have a right to have their own homeland. President as-Sadat added that he is always optimistic because of his faith in the good side of man.

In his interview to the German weekly, which published a special Christmas edition entitled, "Good Must Triumph," President as-Sadat said: All of us must work to remove forever the ghost of war and destruction from the Middle East area. As-Sadat further explained that durable peace must be just and comprehensive if it is to be stable and permanent. He said: I explained this more than once at the Knesset. I also told the Israelis that I do not speak two languages nor do I use two tongues. I also emphasized to them that peace, as far as we are concerned, is not mere letters to be written on paper; it is a humanitarian concept and a way of life which we take into consideration in all our actions.

UN DELEGATION DEMANDS CIRCULATION OF 21 DEC STATEMENT

NC282143Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian delegation to the United Nations today demanded the circulation of a statement by an Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman issued on 21 December. The statement accused Israel of committing a new act of aggression when it shelled Lebanese territory on that day. The statement said that this shelling is a flagrant violation of the efforts being made by the United States in cooperation with Egypt to remove the obstacles which Israel has placed on the road to establishing a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

The head of the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations annexed the statement to a letter he addressed to the chairman of the UN Security Council in which he asked that the statement be circulated as a Security Council document.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RETURNS FROM KHARTOUM

NC290635Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 28 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 December--People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib and chairman of the assembly's Arab Affairs Committee Fawzi al-'Amdah returned to Cairo from Khartoum tonight after a 4-day visit to Sudan at the invitation of the Sudanese People's Assembly.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ALGIERS TO OFFER CONDOLENCES

JN281525Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 December--A Jordanian delegation left Amman for Algiers at noon today to offer condolences on the death of Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The delegation is headed by 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and delegate of His Majesty King Husayn; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs and delegate of the government; and Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Idris, delegate of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

CHARTER FIRM UPS FLIGHTS TO IRAN TO MEET 'HIGH DEMAND'

JN291026Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Dec 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman, Dec 28--Arab Wings, the Amman-based executive jet charter company, was sending three Learjets and a Sabreliner to Bahrain today to meet the high demand for flights in and out of Iran, a company official announced here today.

"In addition to normal business flights in the gulf area we are receiving an unprecedented number of requests from customers to move expatriate personnel from Iranian cities to other gulf locations," senior vice president for marketing and sales Akel Biltaji said.

As striking airport service workers cripple Iran's air services the eight-passenger jets of Arab Wings offer one of the few ways to fly in and out of Iran.

"Our planes are scheduled to fly over 16 flights in the gulf area in the next 48 hours," said Mr. Biltaji. "Some of these are on a shuttle basis to cities such as Ahvaz and Abadan," he added.

"We are also sending a full maintenance team and dispatch personnel to boost our Bahrain base where we normally have only one or two planes positioned. At least until the New Year we anticipate operating the fleet out of Bahrain to cope with the situation," Mr. Biltaji said.

PRESIDENT SARKIS TO VISIT U.S. IN JANUARY

JN290828Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 December--The newspaper AL-'AMAL reports today that President Ilyas Sarkis will visit Washington in the second half of January.

The paper adds that the visit, which comes within the framework of official efforts to dissociate the Lebanese crisis from the Middle East conflict, will be of special importance because it will take place before the ordinary UN Security Council session convenes on 19 January. The council is scheduled to discuss the extension of the UNIFIL mandate in Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC281101Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today continued his diplomatic contacts with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states regarding the situation in southern Lebanon. At 1000 today Minister Butrus met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Mr John Gunther Dean. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes.

After the meeting, the U.S. ambassador said: We continued the discussions we began last week. I express to you best wishes for the new year.

In reply to a question, he said: Our constant dialog and talks regarding all the issues, particularly the issues we discussed last week, are continuing. I hope that my wishes for the new year for peace, progress and reconciliation in Lebanon will be fulfilled.

At 1100 Minister Butrus received the British ambassador to Lebanon.

MILITARY COMMANDS COORDINATE EFFORTS TO BOLSTER SECURITY

NC290655Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The army, Arab Deterrent Forces and Internal Security Force commands have begun their task of coordinating efforts to control the security situation and spread reassurance in the country. These measures, which have begun bearing fruit, were the result of the expanded security meeting held at the presidential palace the day before yesterday and the cabinet meeting. Coordination among these military commands was completed at a meeting the prime minister held yesterday with Army Chief of Staff Brig Gen Munir Tarabay and during the banquet which army commander and Defense Minister Gen Victor Khuri held at his residence yesterday on the occasion of rotating the Syrian contingent of the Arab Deterrent Forces.

The conferees then moved to the house of Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib to continue the discussions on the tasks assigned to the three legitimate forces to maintain security.

It is worth noting that this meeting falls within the framework of the meetings between the army and deterrent forces command.

It is known that the security measures aim at eliminating the armed manifestations and consolidating security. Joint patrols have actually been operating in a number of areas in Beirut with strict instructions not to be lenient and to implement the orders to suppress violations. Coordination among the three legitimate commands provides for filling the security vacuum in the areas which were defined during the meeting held the day before yesterday.

SUDAN TO CONSIDER EXTENDING ADF UNIT MANDATE

NC290721Y Beirut Domestic in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has stated in Khartoum that the Lebanese authorities are seriously working in agreement with the Arab brothers to find a settlement to the Lebanese crisis--a settlement that will satisfy all parties concerned.

Abu Fadil, who was received by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, has stated that the Sudanese president has promised to discuss with the officials concerned the possibility of extending for 6 months the mandate of the Sudanese contingent in the Arab Deterrent Forces operating in Lebanon.

In a statement to SUNA during his visit to Khartoum, Abu Fadil said that on the official and popular levels, Lebanon is opposed to settling the Palestinians in Lebanon. He added that the PLO and the Lebanese Government have rejected any form of settling the Palestinians in Lebanon because that would be conducive to the loss of the Palestinian cause for which the Arabs have fought. He said that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the establishment of a Palestinian state.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC281312Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 28 Dec 78 NC

[Text] At 1015 today, gunmen got away with 700,000 Lebanese pounds which were the wages of the employees of the water company in west Beirut. The incident took place in Tallat al-Khayyat behind the television building, a few meters from the deterrent forces checkpoint, when gunmen intercepted the company's accounts clerks Muhammad Shuqayr and Ilyas ash-Shami.

In Al-Biqa' area, a bomb went off under a car belonging to a Lebanese army man, Ahmad 'Ali Mustafa, destroying the car. Gunmen, including fugitive officer Ahmad al-Khatib, were seen opening fire in Sa'd Nayil.

Sniping continued this morning in the capital's suburbs of Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, as well as in Al-Hayat, Sannin, Al-Matahin and the Chevrolet areas. A cautious calm was reported in Ra's ad-Dikwanah, while the roads there were unsafe.

PALESTINIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN REPORTS 'AFULAH INCIDENT

JN281506Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman today issued the following statement: At 0715 28 December 1978, one of our fighters opened fire on an enemy military vehicle in the main square of the town of 'Afulah. Several enemy soldiers in the vehicle were wounded, one of them seriously. They were moved to a hospital.

Immediately afterward large army and police forces cordoned off the area in an attempt to capture our fighter, who succeeded in getting free and returning safely to his base. Enemy forces in the area are still combing the area and arresting Palestinian Arabs.

VOP REPORTS ON 'ZIONIST' ACTIVITIES IN S. LEBANON

JN280949Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0730 GMT 28 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Unidentified gunboats, believed to belong to the Zionists, appeared off the coast near Sidon last evening, then proceeded northward.

Sources of the joint forces said that observation posts have been (?positioned) along the coast where the gunboats were sighted to observe their movements and to watch for any other events.

Reports from the eastern sector said that the Zionists continue to infiltrate northward, particularly into areas under the isolationists' control. Three trucks loaded with Zionist artillery shells of various calibers entered the Marj 'Uyun area the day before yesterday through the Kafr Killa gate and unloaded their consignment at the Marj 'Uyun barracks. The ammunition will be distributed to Israeli posts in the area.

Meanwhile, joint Israeli-isolationist patrols continue to patrol the areas near the villages of Kfar Shima and (Khuraymah). Reports from the central sector said that the isolationist militia had blocked the road to Bint Jubayl near Saqf al-Hawa' for a period of 5 days in an attempt to punish the village for refusing to become linked economically with Israel.

INA: ZIONIST FORCES CONCLUDE MANEUVER; GUNBOATS ACTIVE

JN281656Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 December--The Zionist forces this afternoon concluded 2-day maneuvers carried out with live ammunition at the two axes of Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun and Yarin-Marwahin-Umm at-Tut inside the southern Lebanese territories.

The INA correspondent in the south has quoted local natives as saying that large numbers of tanks and vehicles participated in these maneuvers. They also pointed out that the maneuvers were supervised by senior Zionist officers in charge of the enemy in the northern sector.

In addition, the correspondent said that at noon today Zionist gunboats hijacked a Lebanese commercial vessel called Dalia when it was in the territorial waters off Sidon. Its destiny is still unknown.

It will be recalled that Zionist gunboats have hijacked several Lebanese and foreign vessels during the last 2 weeks.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER LEAVES FOR SOFIA

JN221218Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 December--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, left Beirut for Sofia today at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days to Bulgaria.

Sources of the Progressive Party have indicated that Junblatt will hold talks with Bulgarian officials on consolidating party relations. The talks will also deal with the situation in the Arab area.

OFFICIAL VIEWS RELATIONS WITH USSR, JORDAN; BAGHDAD SUMMIT

JN281326Y Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Dec 78 pp 2, 3 JN

[Text of interview by 'Abdallah al-Ammar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, to Syrian ATH-THAWRAH and Turkish CUMHURIYET newspapers presumably in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Press reports recently spoke of the existence of differences in viewpoints between Syria and the Soviet Union. What is your comment on this subject and is it true that there are differences between Syria and the Soviet Union?

Answer: Regardless of what has been and will be said in the future about Syrian-Soviet relations, these relations are relations of friendship, based on understanding and cooperation aimed at insuring both countries' interests and mutual benefit. We have the common objectives of resisting imperialism and working for peace. The Soviet Union is supporting Arab rights. At the same time, the Soviet Union and Syria are two independent countries, each having its will and sovereignty.

Undoubtedly, issues and matters exist between the two friendly countries that need to be discussed to reach a common understanding that will serve cooperation and friendship between them. This is taking place between the two countries within a cordial framework.

Question: Let us discuss now the Arab summit in Baghdad. According to what I have read, the summit adopted only one important resolution--to transfer the Arab League headquarters from Cairo. This resolution is not important enough to affect the crux of the problem. Can we say then that some Arab countries attending the summit preferred to avoid adopting resolutions which would be led to a real confrontation with Israel and the United States?

Answer: Concerning the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad recently, I would like to stress that the important thing is not the speculation on whether the conference would be held or whether it achieved results. The important thing is that the conference was held and did achieve positive results. The Arab summit convened and achieved positive and important results, confirming the Arab nation's strength. Some of these resolutions were made public in the statement issued by the summit, while others, despite leaks, remain secret and have not been published. However, the Arab countries agreed that the implementation of these secret resolutions will depend on the will of the Arab countries themselves. Some of these resolutions are to be implemented in the event As-Sadat concludes a separate peace treaty with Israel, while other resolutions will be implemented with the mutual agreement of the Arabs, whether or not they are officially published in the future.

Question: Syrian-Jordanian relations before the Camp David agreements were good and improving. However, in the wake of the Camp David agreements, Jordan did not share Syria's categorical rejection of these agreements. Is there any lukewarmness in these relations now and do you expect Jordan to join the U.S. settlement process?

Answer: King Husayn participated in the Arab summit conference in Baghdad. He was in agreement with all his brother Arabs. He agreed to all the resolutions issued by the conference and did not support the Camp David agreements at any stage. [paragraph continues]

As for Syrian-Jordanian relations, they are good and are based on coordination and integration dating back many years. Positive results have been obtained in strengthening the two countries' march toward integration in all fields. These relations are as good now as they ever have been, both between the two governments and between the two peoples. We do not sense anything else and are satisfied because matters are proceeding positively and well.

Question: The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party exists in Iraq and Syria. Can you give us an idea about the possibility of unifying the two parties or, if the expression fits, the two wings of the party?

Answer: There is a similarity between the objectives sought by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party ruling Syria and the objectives of the organization [tanzim] ruling Iraq. If, at a particular time and stage, each of these two organizations had its own methods in its area of struggle, this should not in any case be an obstacle to their being unified now that a goal has been set by the Joint Charter for National Action. This goal sees unity between the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Syria as the road leading to comprehensive Arab unity.

ARRIVAL OF MORE CUBAN MILITARY EXPERTS IN SYRIA

LD281543Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Beirut--Special dispatch--Well-informed diplomatic sources here have revealed to AS-SIYASAH that about 130 Cuban military experts arrived in Damascus early this week. The sources said that the Cuban military experts of which this group is composed specialize in field weaponry. The sources added that no fewer than 100 Cuban Air Force experts have been in Syria for some time.

According to these diplomatic sources, the arrival of Cuban field weaponry experts following [vice chairman of Iraqi Revolution Council] Saddam Husayn's visit to Cuba has led to speculation that the question of seeking the assistance of Cuban military expertise or, rather, increasing the number of Cuban military experts was discussed by Saddam Husayn during his talks with Dr Fidel Castro as a means of strengthening the Iraqi-Syrian northern military front.

DAMASCUS REPORTS SYRIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK JOINT STATEMENT

JN222008Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Czechoslovakia has hailed the Joint Charter for National Action signed between Syria and Iraq, and considers it a step toward strengthening and promoting joint work and relations between the two fraternal countries. Czechoslovakia greatly values the results of the ninth Arab summit conference and its achievements on the road to unifying Arab ranks and promoting efforts aimed at confronting the dangers faced by the Arab nation after the developments resulting from the Camp David agreements.

In the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the 17-21 December visit by a delegation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Central Committee, the Czechoslovak side praised the results of the summit of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which was held in Damascus and which greatly contributed to strengthening solidarity and militant unity against the imperialist and Zionist (?agents) and against the anti-Arab separate solutions. The Czechoslovak side praised the important militant role played by Arab Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in firmly confronting all the plots aimed at imposing capitulation on the Arab nation.

In the joint statement, the two sides reiterated their firm conviction that the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through the complete withdrawal of the Zionist forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and through the restoration of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to decide their own destiny and establish their independent state in their homeland.

The two sides reaffirmed the need to strengthen the legitimate Lebanese Government authorities throughout all of Lebanon and to take into consideration the legitimate interests of the Palestine resistance movement in Lebanon.

The Syrian and Czechoslovak sides declared their support for the continuing efforts to strengthen solidarity among the forces hostile to imperialism and Zionism throughout the world. They strongly condemned the aggressive acts of the imperialist and racist forces in Africa and also the existing alliance between these forces and the racist Zionist regime in occupied Palestine.

The statement says that the two delegations signed two cooperation agreements between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPCZ for the next 2 years.

During the visit, the CPCZ delegation under Comrade Vasil Bilak met with President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with a Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN DIGNITARIES ARRIVE FOR FUNERAL

LD282120Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] The death of President Houari Boumediene has caused great emotion in the world, and very many countries will be represented at his funeral. President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algeiers this afternoon to take part in the national mourning for President Houari Boumediene. President Boumediene will live forever, the Syrian head of state said, while Yasir 'Arafat said that the loss of this knight can only heighten our will to continue on the path we have chosen to reach our goals.

President Moussa Traore of Mali arrived in Algiers this evening. President Seyni Kountche of Niger has also arrived. President Anton Buttigieg of Malta also arrived this evening.

Prime Minister Hedi Nouira of Tunisia, accompanied by Mohamed Fitovri, president of the Tunisian National Assembly and foreign minister, arrived in Algiers this afternoon to represent Tunisia.

Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss will represent Lebanon. Dr Salim al-Huss will leave the Lebanese capital for Algiers tonight.

President Pal Losonczi of Hungary left Budapest today for Algiers.

President Spiros Kiprianou of the Republic of Cyprus and Foreign Minister Nikos Rolandis will also attend the funeral.

Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, left Cairo for Algiers this afternoon.

On arrival in Algiers, OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo said: We feel sorrow and we express our condolences to the Algerian people following the death of President Boumediene.

Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad of the PDRY has left Aden for Algiers to represent his country. He is accompanied by a delegation of three ministers.

Faruk Sukan, Turkish minister of state and deputy prime minister, will head the Turkish delegation to the funeral.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice chancellor and foreign minister, will represent his country at the funeral. He will come to Algiers heading a large delegation.

A delegation from the Cape Verde Islands headed by Prime Minister Pedro Pires will represent Cape Verde.

Mr Strougal, member of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party Presidium and premier, arrived in Algiers this afternoon to represent the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. He is accompanied by the Czechoslovak foreign minister.

Commander Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Council of State and member of the Politbureau of the Cuban Communist Party, arrived this afternoon in Algiers leading a delegation to represent his country at the funeral.

On behalf of President Hasan al-Bakr, I come to pass on to the fraternal Algierian people the Iraqi people's condolences to the fraternal Algerian people, the Council of the Revolution and the government, said Mr Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president of Iraq, on arriving at Dar al-Bayda Airport today.

Africa has lost a man who worked relentlessly for the people's progress, said Liberian Foreign Minister Dennis on his arrival in Algiers.

The French delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Jean-Francois Poncent. Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet will represent his country. David Owen, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, will arrive in Algiers this evening to represent the British Government. Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr and Canadian Postmaster General Gilles Lamontagne arrived in Algiers this afternoon to represent their countries at the funeral.

[Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 29 December reports that the U.S. delegation led by M. Blumenthal, secretary of the treasury, accompanied by the son of U.S. President Carter, to represent his father, together with Muhammad Ali, world heavyweight champion, arrived in Algiers this morning.

[Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1025 GMT on 29 December notes that Col Mu-ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of the Jamahriyah, has just arrived at Algiers airport at the head of a Libyan delegation to attend the funeral of President Boumediene.]

[Algiers Domestic Service in French at 0630 GMT on 29 December reports that among the leaders from socialist countries are Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who arrived yesterday evening at the head of a delegation.

MOROCCO'S BOUCETTA SENDS CONDOLENCES ON BOUMEDIENE'S DEATH

LD281224Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, has sent the following cable to his Algerian counterpart: We have learned the news of the death of His Excellency President Houari Boumediene. On this painful occasion, I offer my warmest and sincerest condolences to you, begging you to convey our feelings and condolences to the family of the deceased. We pray God the Almighty to grant patience to the family of the deceased and to guide the sister Algerian people during this critical circumstance toward whatever brings them good and prosperity.

MOROCCO

DAILIES DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR POST-BOUMEDIENE ALGERIA

LD281420Y Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Press review]

[Text] Rabat, Dec 28, MAP--The Moroccan dailies commented on Algeria's President Houari Boumediene's death. The Istiqlal Party's daily L'OPINION said that "a new era should be inaugurated for the Arab Maghreb 'peoples' common interests. For they have not only a common present but also a common history, language, faith, and future".

"We are convinced that Boumediene's successors will have present obstacles and opt for cooperation and understanding with Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia to guarantee Algeria's future on a sage basis", L'OPINION concluded.

The independent party's daily AL-MAGHREB said that Boumediene's death will open new horizons for our common future. The daily recalled the Moroccan Government's strong desire to end the artificial conflict, and its attempts to hold a peaceful dialogue between the two countries to maintain the secular friendship and solidarity ties between the Moroccan and the Algerian peoples.

AL-MUHARRIR, the Moroccan Socialist Party's daily, urged the Algerians to establish democracy, the only means to guarantee Algeria's stability and continuity.

"We sincerely hope", AL-MUHARRIR said, "that the democratic choice will open new perspectives for the Maghreb's unity".

TUNISIA

COMMUNIQUE ON SFRY, TUNISIAN INFORMATION MINISTERS' TALKS

LD221718Y Tunis TAP in English 1541 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, Dec 22 (TAP)--At the end of Ismail Bajra's Dec 19-22 visit to Tunisia at the invitation of his homologue Chedli Klibi, information minister, a communique was issued.

Being issued at the end of the Tunisian-Yugoslav joint commission's proceedings, this document casts light on the different issues debated, notably those relating to bilateral cooperation and inter non-aligned countries cooperation. The two delegations expressed satisfaction with the harmony marking their respective viewpoints and attitudes towards the problems of information.

As for bilateral cooperation the two parts made mention of the success reached so far between the two press agencies. However, cooperation is to be consolidated between the two radio and television corporations by making a more appropriate use of available means and resources.

Besides cooperation must spread to the fields of publishing, filmed press, staff training and exchange in mass-media and research matters. For such a purpose an agreement was signed between "TAP" and "TANJUG" for the years 79-80.

The two parts also expressed satisfaction with the efforts made to put into practice the Colombo summit resolutions aiming at putting an end to the developing countries dependence in matters of information and communication. In this context, the developing countries must undertake a common action to face this situation by setting up a new international information and economic order. The communique includes as well some information on the preparation for the heads of states sixth summit to be held Sep 79 in Havana. As for the information coordination intergovernment council third session, the two parts agreed on holding a preparatory meeting which will include "Togo" being the country to host the session as well the coordination committees chairmen.

Moreover, the two parts tackled the question of the meeting to be held January 1979 in Baghdad by the representatives of the non-aligned journalists associations, and stressed the necessity to put into practice the non-aligned objectives. The next issue mentioned in the communique concerns the undertaking of a common strategy during the international administrative conference on radio-communication to be held in Geneva (1979). Besides Tunisia will attend the next television festival to be organised October 1979 in Yugoslavia.

Finally, the two del gations insisted upon working in concept to carry out the non-aligned movement principles in matters of information.

MK'S REACT TO BUTRUS GHALI'S STATEMENTS ON PALESTINIANS

TA281230Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Chairman of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee Moshe Arens believes that, after the peace agreement is signed, pressures will be exerted on us to withdraw completely to the 1967 borders. Butrus Ghali's statement will sober those who wanted to believe what was heard from the Egyptians in private talks. Ghali expressed Egypt's official position. Moshe Arens thinks the Egyptians will not relent on the Palestinian issue because the Americans will not enable them to make concessions.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, chairman of the MAFDAL faction, says that the Egyptian foreign minister's statement is another sign indicating the illusory Israeli attitude that there was a prospect for a peace with Egypt without a concurrent development in the Palestinian issue. The leadership which created this illusion, he said, is due for a moral accounting.

Jerusalem Not Surprised

TA281251Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] It is being said in Jerusalem that there is no surprise in the Egyptian foreign minister's statement that 1 month after the peace agreement is signed, a confrontation between the two countries will begin over the Palestinian entity. Sources in Jerusalem stressed it has been known for some time now that Israel and Egypt do not see eye to eye on everything concerning the future of the autonomy.

Answering a question posed by our political correspondent, the sources said the fact that a debate on Judaea and Samaria may be expected between Israel and Egypt after the signing of the peace treaty does not endanger the future of the treaty.

BEGIN, DAYAN DIFFER ON INTERPRETATIVE LETTER TO ARTICLE VI

TA281051Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The prime minister and the foreign minister have different views regarding the need for an interpretative letter on Article VI of the peace agreement. This difference was revealed in the public appearances they have made in the last 24 hours and in clarifications made to the HA'AREZ correspondent by sources associated with the two personalities.

While the prime minister maintains that there is no room to add any interpretative letter on Article VI to the peace treaty, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan thinks that there is reason to hold negotiations with Egypt on formulating an interpretative letter. Article VI of the peace treaty contains five paragraphs, two of which--paragraphs two and five--have led to differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt. Paragraph two guarantees the effectiveness of the agreement and paragraph five guarantees its precedence over other commitments made by the two parties. Egypt demands that these two paragraphs be modified by a clarifying note and an interpretative letter (which has already been supplied by the U.S. Department of State) which totally change the original meaning of the article.

Upon his return from his meeting in Brussels with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, Dayan began to claim that there was room to begin negotiating with Egypt on writing an interpretative letter to Article VI which will be agreed upon by both parties. [paragraph continues]

As Dayan conceives it, that letter must replace the interpretative note and the U.S. State Department legal opinion that Israel was asked to accept during Vance's last visit to Israel.

It has been learned that Dayan's position is based on his talks with Khalil in Brussels, during which it was understood that Cairo was prepared to begin contacts on the formulation of an interpretative letter that will cancel its present demands on this issue (the U.S. interpretative note and legal opinion), demands which are unacceptable to Israel.

At present, it seems that Begin has a different opinion on this issue. He thinks that Israel must not agree to negotiations on any kind of interpretative letter on Article VI. The prime minister thinks that the article should be left alone.

It seems that there is disagreement between the two men over the outcome of the political debate now taking place in the cabinet. Whereas Begin is inclined to accept a decision which would reiterate the cabinet's decision of 2 weeks ago, which, among other things, expressed readiness to sign the peace treaty as it stood and to reformulate the "joint letter" (which deals with the procedures to be followed in implementing the autonomy), Dayan thinks that a new decision should be made that will express readiness to continue the rapprochement with Egypt on three issues: Article IV (which discusses the security arrangements in the Sinai), the joint letter and an agreed interpretation of Article VI.

Dayan Wants Reformulation

TA281108Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is not proposing that Israel demand that the United States devise another letter which would void the legal opinion on the meaning of Article VI of the peace treaty; he proposes that the United States reformulate its position so that its legal document meets Israel's demands.

Sources close to the foreign minister claim that there is no difference of opinion between the foreign minister and the prime minister regarding the total rejection of Article VI. Both of them reject the legal opinion, which has divested Article VI of all its meaning. They reject the opinion because, according to the U.S. interpretation given to Egypt without Israel's knowledge, it does not express the thought that the peace treaty is to be independent and self-sufficient.

The foreign minister maintains that it is difficult to ask a superpower like the United States to cancel the letter (the opinion of the State Department legal adviser), but it must demand that the United States change its meaning so that it meets Israel's demands as well.

Begin Supports Cabinet Stand

TA281118Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Knowledgeable sources remarked last night that, to the best of their knowledge, the prime minister is expressing the cabinet's stand and that, in their estimation, the cabinet will not make a decision at its Sunday session that is different from the one it made on Friday, 15 December. On 15 December, the cabinet expressed its willingness to discuss only two issues with Egypt: the accompanying letter regarding the establishment of the autonomy institutions and an amendment to Article IV of the treaty concerning the reexamination of the security arrangements in the Sinai.

It appears from these sources' assessments that the prime minister will not support the proposal to negotiate with the United States on an agreed upon U.S. legal opinion, if Dayan should raise such a proposal for a vote in the cabinet.

BEGIN, DAYAN AGREE ON DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR CABINET

TA290934Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Blooh]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin supports Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's proposals for the resumption of the negotiations over the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and the proposal which Begin will bring to the cabinet session on Sunday will also have Dayan's agreement.

Authorized observers stressed yesterday that the proposals which the foreign minister put forward at the cabinet session are definitely acceptable to the prime minister, including Dayan's proposal on the matter of the U.S. letter of interpretation of Article VI in the peace treaty. Dayan's proposal is to negotiate with the Americans and with Egypt so that the United States can formulate a new letter of interpretation which will be as acceptable as possible to both sides. Begin supports this idea, since otherwise the previous U.S. letter of interpretation would remain valid, giving a unilateral interpretation favoring the Egyptian position.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has expressed willingness to discuss a new letter of interpretation, and Dayan's proposals appear to the United States to be suitable foundations for the resumption of the negotiations.

Observers in Jerusalem believe that there is a reasonable possibility of holding a summit conference with the heads of Egypt, Israel and the United States, an idea which President Carter is now discussing (as was reported in DAVAR yesterday by our correspondent in the United States). It is assumed, however, that the summit conference will be preceded by a preparatory stage at the level of foreign ministers.

AMERICANS CRITICIZED AS 'ACTIVE PARTNERS OF EGYPT'

TA290918Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Dec 78 p 13 TA

[Shemu'el Schnitzer commentary: "'Never' Means Tomorrow"]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government appears to be the only element in the world which is not aware of the fact that over the past 5 months the Americans have ceased to play the part of honest or dishonest broker and they are now, quite openly and without embarrassment, active partners of Egypt. Everything that Egypt demands the United States demands as well; everything that Egypt gets is also acceptable to the United States. If Cairo retracts, the Americans regard the retraction as justified. If it is insistent, then Washington supports it. If it creates a crisis, Washington blames the Israelis.

Throughout the negotiations, no one can point to a place where As-Sadat manifest flexibility and a tendency toward compromise. However, when he takes a dramatic pose and declares that his patience is running out and that he has reached the limit of his concessions, Washington does not ask him which concessions he is referring to. It is quite clear to Washington that it is Israel that is insistent and Egypt is flexible, irrespective of what the facts say.

This onesidedness reached a pinnacle in the latest crisis in the negotiations. Israel announced its willingness to sign a draft that was prepared by the Americans. Egypt stated its opposition to some of the clauses in the draft. Who did the United States support in this dispute? Egypt, of course; because the Egyptians are always right.

After everything that has happened since August (August is the month that the U.S. secretary of state accepted As-Sadat's demand that the United States be a "full partner") should have caused some form of suspicion in Jerusalem that there is an Egyptian-U.S. conspiracy and that Washington and Cairo had agreed on matters over and above the public and open agreements. If in August it was impossible to know the real meaning of the term "full partner" for which As-Sadat strived, then by September there could no longer be any doubt, because immediately after Camp David U.S. spokesmen at all levels began a campaign of interpretation that had all the call signs of a joint U.S.-Egyptian creation; there was no argument made by the Egyptians that was not also made by the Americans, and all the hopes that Israel pinned on the Camp David agreements were smashed by President Carter and his aides a few days after they were signed.

What has happened in the past few weeks should have dispelled any last doubts. Even a blind man should be able to see that we have more than coincidental U.S. agreement to the lastest Egyptian demands and that it is with U.S. approval that the Egyptians are not using the peace treaty as a tool to normalize relations but as a lever to apply pressure. The whole structure of the treaty is built so that it can be canceled or suspended if Israel does not fulfill Arab expectations with respect to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; the whole thing is a trap and a document of blackmail giving Egypt (and especially the United States) a far-reaching degree of control over Israeli political decisions in the eighties. Even if Israel meets all of Egypt's conditions and responds to all its demands, As-Sadat can still unilaterally abolish the treaty the moment that Al-Asad and 'Arafat want this.

The problem is that the Israeli Government is not dealing with realistic policy but is chasing a dream. Its peace is not a realistic state of relations between two countries but a slogan for political publicity. Israel has done everything possible to achieve it at all cost in whatever form and, in fact, has not attributed too much importance to its clauses and formulations even though it appears to be bargaining over them. Its enthusiasm is no longer a secret, and everyone knows that there is no major significance to the strong remarks it makes prior to every withdrawal and during every withdrawal. One could fill a book with all the things that have been said and not done, with all the refusals that ultimately disappeared, with all the conditions that it has stipulated and backed down from. The combination of the Israeli Government's verbosity and behaviour leads to the inevitable conclusion that there is no limit to its concessions, there is no final line which it will not cross, and anyone who does not take full advantage of this and pressure Israel to the extreme is a fool.

Apparently we have not yet reached this limit. Therefore, we can assume that the negotiations will be resumed soon. However, there is no longer any doubt about how it will end: Whoever is unable to stand by his views will find others imposing their views on him.

ABBA EBAN COMMENTS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA281743Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] MK Abba Eban said today, 28 December, that the dispute with Egypt could be settled in January via a letter of interpretation to Article VI of the agreement, setting a starting date for the opening of the negotiations on the autonomy and a review of the agreement, by mutual agreement, in accordance with Article IV.

Mr Eban, who was replying to questions about political problems at a new conference held in Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv by Bet Berl [Labor Party seminar center] said that the Labor Party should show no less courage to obtain peace than the government and so it should support the peace agreement now, despite the risk and the cost.

"At Camp David an impressive achievement was made. Both sides agreed to the text of the treaty and there is no dispute over its body. [as received] The agreement must not be exploded over less important points after both the sides have already accepted more difficult concessions. It would be a historical paradox if the agreement is not signed only because of the points now remaining," Mr Eban said.

In his view, it could not be said that Article VI was the heart of the agreement, because the heart of the agreement was Egypt's willingness to maintain full peaceful relations with Israel and Israel's willingness to evacuate Sinai and establish Arab self-rule in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The Egyptians accept the formulation of Article VI and fears about the agreement's lack of precedence over other Egyptian commitments can be soothed by means of a letter of interpretation. In this context he pointed out that he had at one time sent a memo to Foreign Minister M. Dayan drawing the latter's attention to Egypt's complicated contractual relations with other Arab countries, so that it should be clearly stated that the agreement with Israel would have an independent existence.

With regard to Article IV, Mr Eban said that this was the simplest problem, because in every peace treaty there was room for review, but any change would only be made by mutual agreement.

With regard to the target date for the foundation of the autonomy, Mr Eban said that he justified the government's position to the effect that no fixed dates should be set for the conclusion of the negotiations, since this depended on the positions of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el and Jordan. Therefore, the lack of success in achieving the target could not release Egypt from its commitments. No shadow of sanctions must be permitted to hover over the implementation of the agreement, and the boycotting of the autonomy by the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el should not prevent the exchange of ambassadors with Egypt. Neither should Syria be given a "key" to explode the agreement through a demand that Egypt fulfill its commitments to it.

However, he said that, in his view, a date should be set for the beginning of the negotiations, since Prime Minister M. Begin thinks that the autonomy program is a good one. Israel's greatest concession was in the sphere of Judaea and Samaria and, by the nature of the agreement, the sides had assumed that there would be a dynamic which would permit the foundation of the autonomy. Even if there are crises in establishing the autonomy. it is better that they should occur when there is a peace treaty with Egypt, than without it.

He also said that the Labor Party had approved the Camp David agreements by a majority of 80 percent and in spite of all the doubts about the results of the autonomy program and the heavy cost of evacuating Sinai, the power of the achievement of a peace agreement justified support for the agreement.

In reply to a question, he said that when he was in the United States, he had received an appeal from Foreign Minister M. Dayan to participate in explaining the Israeli position to those who form public opinion in Washington. Accordingly, he had met with 40 senior journalists, who were columnists and authors of editorial articles. However he had seen no possibility of making a tour throughout the United States.

HA'AREZ CRITICIZES MINISTERS' ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTONOMY

TA271550Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 78 p 9 TA

['Uzzi Benziman commentary: "Would-Be Yearning"]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has for several months been urging the cabinet members to tour Judaea and Samaria in order to closely study the problems concerning these districts. In the summer, Sharon tried to persuade the ministers into going to the West Bank on an air-conditioned bus and, lately, before the onset of the winter, he promised them a heated bus on which they could travel to the areas continuously referred to at cabinet sessions. The ministers have rejected the agriculture minister's proposals. They prefer discussing the autonomy at the conference room in Jerusalem rather than meet the people and visit the areas to which the autonomy is to apply.

Whatever Ari'el Sharon's motives are, it seems there is reason for giving some thought to the ministers' refusing his request. On second thought, however, it is hard to recall any occasions on which cabinet ministers were seen in the districts beyond the green line. This is a rather strange phenomenon, since holding onto these regions is ostensibly their ardent wish.

When was Menahem Begin's last visit to Judaea and Samaria? The latest one recalled was the visit he made to Qaddum, immediately after his rise to power. 'Ezer Weizman, in the frame of his duties, frequently visits towns and villages in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, and so does Ari'el Sharon. This is more or less the end of the list. Moshe Dayan knows the people, the landscapes and the problems concerning the held territories, both from his former duties and from talks he has held during the last few months with some Arab notables. Zevulun Hammer and Hayyim Landau are in continuous contact with the Jewish settlers beyond the green line and, through them, they feel the pulse of events and know the problems troubling them. However, the information they receive is selective by nature.

Even if there are one or two ministers who can recall a visit they made to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and even if it turns out that Mr Begin has indeed visited the area since June 1977 (when he said: "There will be many settlements like Elon More")--the diagnosis that the cabinet ministers do not regard Judaea, Samaria and Gaza as pleasant sites to visit still holds true.

The issues are brought up against the background of the issues which are to occupy the cabinet's attention in the next few weeks. Again there is no one who is deluding himself into believing that a separate treaty with Egypt is feasible. Begin is well aware that he lost in his gamble, which was the basis for the deal he proposed to As-Sadat a year ago: the entire Sinai in return for an ambiguous status in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Not only does As-Sadat not make do with general formulations that are meant to preserve his honor in the Arab world, he also demands to link the realization of the peace treaty with Israel to the attainment of rather defined guidelines regarding the solution in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, which he succeeded in extracting from Begin at Camp David.

Soon, the government will be faced with the choice: to abandon the negotiations with Egypt altogether (or to lead them onto the path of a limited agreement,) or venture to discuss a comprehensive agreement. When the cabinet's main purpose is to remove Egypt from the Arab rejectionist camp, it adopts a different approach from that adopted when it must discuss a comprehensive agreement in the Middle East on terms acceptable to the cabinet.

When the first alternative is discussed the cabinet is prepared to give back to As-Sadat the entire Sinai and to design a program for a vague autonomy. When facts change and a new reality is created whereby a separate deal with Egypt is not feasible anymore, the government finds itself confronted with the necessity to decide whether it is prepared to propose a comprehensive agreement and what the substance of the solution for the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be.

In other words, the cabinet will soon have to decide whether it still adheres to the autonomy program. To reach a positive decision the cabinet will have to decide whether it prefers to leave the self-administration issue vague or to predefine it. If the government decides to abandon the autonomy program it will be faced with an extremely complex political situation (the Camp David accords are based on the self-administration idea), which, among other things, will make it necessary to choose the Jordanian option as a central factor in the negotiations over the future of Judaea and Samaria.

The present dispute with Egypt over the essence of the formulation of "the joint letter" and Article VI of the peace treaty are secondary compared to the principal choice the government will have to face very soon. Even if the ministers do not admit it, their refusal to meet the people and observe the sceneries of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip reflects to a considerable extent what their mood and their tendencies will be when the time comes to reach the vital decision.

MAJORITY BELIEVES PALESTINIAN PROBLEM KEY TO PEACE

YA2620492 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 Dec 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Most of the Israeli public believes that it is impossible to achieve a final and full peace agreement with the Arab countries without solving the problem of the Palestinians. This is the conclusion of a Pori Institute national public opinion poll conducted at the request of HA'AREZ.

Of those asked, 69.3 percent said that it was impossible to achieve peace without solving the Palestinian problem, in contrast to 17.8 percent who said that it was possible to achieve peace even without solving the Palestinian problem.

A further 4.0 percent said that "perhaps" peace could be achieved without solving the Palestinian problem and that it depended on other factors, such as the United States and Jordan.

Of all those asked, 8.9 percent had no opinion one way or the other.

The Pori polls, which follow public positions on this issue, show that the percentage that thinks that it is impossible to achieve peace without solving the Palestinian problem has been on the upswing since President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem: from 59.4 percent in December 1977 to 65.9 percent in September 1978 and 69.3 percent now.

Among those who think that it is impossible to achieve peace without solving the Palestinian problem, the number of people with a high level of education is outstanding (76.4 percent), as well as those in academic and administrative professions (73.1 percent) and people born in Israel (72.5 percent).

The poll covered a representative selection of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed in their homes throughout the country. The poll did not include the minorities population.

ALINEMENT DELEGATION TOURS JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENTS

TA281237Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Text] An Alinement delegation formed to express sympathy for and to show identification with the Jordan Valley settlers toured the area this week and held meetings in Olya, Na'aran and Paza'el. It has been reported that the Labor Party Bureau will soon hold a meeting in Qalya, as soon as the kibbutz agrees to respond to the party chairman's request that it host the event.

The following participated in the meetings in the Jordan Valley: Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres; party Secretary General Hayyim Bar-lev; Chairman of the Settlement Committee Y. Galili; M. Harif and MK A. Katz-'oz, as representatives of the Ihud Haqevuzot Vehakibbutzim [MAPAI-affiliated movement]; A. Nahemqin, 'A. Hadar and R. Dotan, as representatives of the Moshavim Movement; Ya'aqov Zur, as representative of the [Ahdut Ha'avoda-affiliated] Kibbutz Hame'uhad; and N. Sarig and S. Assaf, as representatives of the Intermovement Committee.

During the meetings, the settlement representatives reviewed the social and economic developments in their settlements and answered questions.

In reply to a question, Labor Party Chairman S. Peres said that there is a security border and a network of settlements in the Jordan Valley and in Gush 'Ezyon which are essential to the country's security. He also said that the Labor Party's fight to strengthen the settlements and secure their future is a fight in the country's interests rather than in the settlers' interests.

BEGIN TO GIVE LANDAU MINISTRY; MAFDAL DENIED ADDED POST

TA281833Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister intends to give the transport and communications portfolio to Minister Without Portfolio Hayyim Landau. Mr Begin said this today at a meeting with the Likud ministers, when the vacant portfolios in the cabinet were discussed.

The prime minister also said that the MAFDAL is not due another minister, as that party is demanding, and if he gives it another cabinet minister, he will have to give additional ministries to the other parties making up the coalition. He said that he did not intend to cut down on the number of Democratic Movement ministers. The changes in portfolios in the cabinet will apparently be made next week, after the prime minister has met with the MAFDAL leaders to discuss the issue with them.

EDITORIAL SEES POSITIVE SIDE TO GUSH EMUNIM ACTIVITY

TA281311Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial: "The Police Against Settlers"]

[Text] One cannot say that the Gush Emunim members are acting impatiently in this sphere so dear to them--settlement. They have waited for the long period of 1 and 1/2 years for the current cabinet to act, giving it the chance to do something in this regard. But nothing happened. Since this was the case, the Gush's settlement activity took place--not for the mere sake of settlement, which is difficult to do in an "amateurish" fashion, but at least to provide the cabinet with an opportunity to publicly reveal its settlement plans. [paragraph continues]

Even though governmental circles are very angry with our "private settlers," who decrease the cabinet's prestige and force it to take strong steps against them, there is also a positive side to what took place, because it proved to the various external elements that the desire to carry out settlement activity is not merely a Begin caprice but that many people in Israel support it.

Gush Emunim Attacks Begin

TA280608Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori today visited Qaddum and brought the members of the Elon More nucleus a request from the prime minister that they not settle this coming Sunday as they had planned to do. This evening, a very senior source in the government accused Gush Emunim of deliberately not recruiting more people to flesh out the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In a talk with our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram, that same senior source pointed out that Gush Emunim was attacking the prime minister and accusing him of preventing the fleshing-out of settlements while the existing settlements were prepared to absorb any number of settlers offered them. The source thinks that Gush Emunim does not have sufficient people for settlement and that its aim is to establish a Knesset list. He also told our correspondent that today's demonstrative settlement action was carried out by settlers from existing settlements and that it would be better for them to remain in their settlements and help toward their development.

Zippori Mediates Dispute

TA281501Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Josef Walter and Yosef Zuri'el]

[Excerpts] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori promised members of the Elon More nucelus to pass on to prime minister Menahem Begin their request that the prime minister reconsider his policy and give an affirmative reply to their request concerning the establishment of a settlement near Nabulus. The settlers on their part agreed to consider Begin's request that they do not settle on Sunday without receiving the cabinet's approval.

The deputy minister brought the settlers a special message from Begin, in which they are asked not settle without approval. The settlers replied that their right to settle near Nabulus cannot be denied. Zippori emphasized that the cabinet has been and will continue to work toward establishing settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The settlers said that they had no proof of that. They asked that the cabinet reconsider its policy and launch a settlement momentum.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said this morning that "each Gush Emunim member is worth his weight in gold, but they want to influence the cabinet's policy and not only with respect to settlement in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. This is a political struggle over the path. That is why the Israeli Cabinet will not allow them to conduct settlement matters."

Zippori said that the Gush activists who try to establish new settlements without cabinet approval will be detained where they assemble and will be removed from the sites where they attempt to set up a settlement. "Settling of the country will be carried out in accordance with the cabinet's decisions, and whoever violates the directives will be dealt with. In Tel Aviv anyone who wants to build a house must receive approval, and this order also applies to someone who wants to settle. The period of the wild west has been over in the United States for 300 years," the deputy minister said.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT DEFENDS ACTIONS, INCREASES VIGILANCE

TA282042Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpts] The military government today announced that the breaching of the gate in the fence surrounding Qiryat Arba' was not done illegally. The Qirya's administration appealed to the military government in an official request to breach the fence and the military government authorized the request.

In the West Bank alertness on roads has been increased to prevent attempts at settlement, new attempts, in Judaea and Samaria. Here is our correspondent Rafiq Halabi reporting on today's activities in the territories:

[begin videotape] Despite the announcement by Elyakim Ha'ezni [settler protesting breaching of the fence] military government circles had another version, that the breaching of the fence had been authorized in response to a request by the Qirya's administration. Whether authorization had been given for the breaching of the fence or whether the military government's announcement came to lessen the importance of this event, there is no doubt that recently the matters of fencing in Hebron have practically become a daily issue. In the (Ja'bari) quarter the fence is still in place, the one the military government built around the houses in the territory taken by the IDF 7 years ago. The inhabitants of this area were forced, about 3 weeks ago, to carry entry permits to their fenced-in homes. Today it was learned that these fences, too, will be breached in the near future.

There is no doubt that the different fencing activities, in addition to the attempts at settling, have led the military government to increase it its alertness. Barriers have been set up on the roads, travellers and their vehicles are searched, all this in order to prevent breaches of the peace or activities which have not been authorized. Preparedness is increasing, particularly because of Gush Emunim announcements about expected settlements.

HELICOPTER OVERFLYING 'ALMA APPARENTLY BELONGS TO AMOCO

TA281408Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The Egyptian helicopter which recently overflew the 'Alma oilfield in the Gulf of Suez several times is not a military helicopter. Apparently the helicopter belongs to the U.S. firm Amoco, which prospects for oil on the Egyptian side of the gulf. It is not believed that the helicopter's penetrations were made for aerial photography. The incident apparently stemmed from an erroneous identification of the border in that area.

ENERGY MINISTRY SOURCE CLAIMS OIL SUPPLY ASSURED

TA281411Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] In spite of the crisis in Iran, the supply of oil to Israel is assured, sources in the Energy Ministry said. They told our economic correspondent Yosi Mellman that Israel had considerable stocks of fuel and that long range contracts had been signed for supplies from various sources. There is no intention to enact the emergency fuel supply plan.

NEW IDF APPOINTMENTS MADE; PLANNING BRANCH REORGANIZED

TA290919Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Brig Gen Natan Sharoni has been appointed to head of the IDF Planning Branch in place of Maj Gen Avraham Tamir who is to be the head of national planning in the Defense Ministry. Major General Tamir will continue to serve in the army in the framework of his new post.

Brig Gen Natan Sharoni was, up to a few years ago, chief artillery officer and later head of the General Staff (Operations) Branch.

Our military correspondent reports that after lengthy deliberations the defense minister decided to split the present planning branch and to establish a new branch within the ministry to be headed by Major General Tamir.

DEPUTY MINISTER NOTES BENEFITS OF REDEPLOYMENT IN NEGEV

TA280919Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2052 GMT 27 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Bar Ilan [university in Ramat Gan], 27 Dec--Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said on Wednesday evening that even if peace is established with Egypt, Israel will have to be ready to provide immediate answers to the questions that will arise "if another ruler comes to power," someone who will not recognize the agreements. Hence, he added, Israel must maintain forces in the Negev in the appropriate places and in the appropriate quantity.

Zippori was speaking at the 10th convention of the Israeli Geographical Society which is being held at Bar Ilan University. In his lecture on the Negev in the light of the Camp David agreements, he pointed out that large military centers will be established in that part of the country, such as in Mizpe Ramon, as well as three military airfields, one of them in the Tel Malhata area on the Beersheba-Dimona road--an airfield which will one day be turned into an international airport.

Zippori emphasized that the IDF redeployment in the Negev may bring prosperity to the region "since it will be possible to settle thousands of people from the defense system and their families there. Also, the Negev will provide employment opportunities for thousands of civilian employees."

The director of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Division, Dr Ra'anan Weiz, said in his lecture that it is necessary to build a canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, along which nuclear power stations, desalination plants and water supply installations should be established to help develop the entire Negev.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA

TA290629Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Director general of the aircraft industry Gabri'el Gidor expects that technology agreements worth tens of millions of dollars will soon be signed with Australia. Under the contract, the aircraft industry will install systems in Australian military planes and rennovate and improve their engines. About 300 Australian Air Force and Navy Mirages and Skyhawks are involved.

In addition, the aircraft industry will export special naval planes to Australia for reconnaissance purposes. It will also develop missile boats, radar systems and antitank artillery in cooperation with the Australians.

In the civilian sphere, technology will be provided to Australian aircraft firms.

An agreement in principle was reached ruing a recent visit by Gidor to Australia, where he held intensive talks with the Australian defense minister and the leaders of the military industry there. A number of Australian delegations are expected to come to Israel to conclude the deal and work out the details of cooperation. It will be the first time that the Israeli Aircraft Industry will be entering the Australian market.

'DEVORA,' 'DABUR' MISSILE BOATS SOLD TO FOREIGN BUYERS

TA271715Y Tel Avid 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Dec 78 p 8 TA

[By 'Omri Mishor]

[Text] Four Israeli "Devora"-type missile boats produced by the aviation industry have been sold to overseas buyers, I was told by aviation industry spokesman Doron Soslik.

The boats, which cost $3 million each, are produced at the Ramta plant in Beersheba from designs conceived and developed at the aviation industry. The "Devora," a multi-purpose patrol boat carrying "Gabri'el" type sea-to-sea missiles, is propelled by two strong diesel engines. It will be crewed by 8 to 10 persons, its range is 700 nautical miles and it is able to reach a speed of 35 knots.

It has also been related that the aviation industry is now conducting negotiations with a number of countries interested in purchasing the vessel and that the prospects for positively concluding these negotiations are very good. It should be noted that Ramta of Beersheba had contracts for the "Devora" even before the first vessel left the production line.

The Ramta plant also produces the "Dabur" boat, which is being sold abroad as well. The Israeli Navy did buy the "Dabur," whereas the "Devora," according to aviation industry circles, is not being purchased by the navy at this time.

LATE REPORT: BEGIN REJECTS EGYPTIAN VIEW OF AUTONOMY

TA291307Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin rejected the interpretation of the Egyptian foreign minister that the autonomy, as discussed at Camp David, means a nucleus for the Palestinian entity. At the annual party for newspaper editors at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem Begin said that the autonomy was proposed so that Eretz Yisra'el would not be divided again and so that Jews and Arabs would be able to live side by side.

There will be more settlements and there is no freeze. In answer to a question, he said that the settlement attempts by Gush Emunim this week were made without the government's approval. The prime minister stressed that Egypt was responsible for the fact that the peace treaty has not yet been signed. Cairo raised new demands which deviate from what was agreed at Camp David and which are contradictory to the agreement.

The prime minister accused the United States of not being an honest broker. However, he stressed that U.S. public opinion supports Israel as do all of U.S. Jewry and the vast majority of the press.

AFP: WORKERS SET CONDITIONS ON REFINING OIL

TA290733Y Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29 (AFP)--Iran's striking oil workers have offered to refine sufficient oil to meet the country's internal needs but have laid down three conditions before doing so, opposition sources said here today.

These conditions are: that the government guarantee that the oil is used solely for internal purposes, that representatives of the strikers monitor its distribution, and that the government does not export any production, particularly to Israel.

Opposition sources maintained that a ship carrying 60,000 barrels of refined oil left Iran on Wednesday for Israel, one of Iran's biggest customers. They said this oil should have been used for internal purposes.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Iran's national oil company has called for negotiations to end the strike through the intermediary of the country's religious leaders. Opposition sources said Ayatollah Teleqani, a member of the lay center-left National Front, had reportedly agreed to do so.

Oil strikers have cut all Iran's exports since Monday and have kept refined production down to 250,000 barrels daily (compared with a normal 750,000 barrels) to meet internal needs, most of it going to hospitals and food processing industries.

The strikers are backing the call by exiled Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeyni for an end to the shah's rule in Iran.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNOR GENERAL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT END TO OIL STRIKE

LD290950Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Lieutenant General Ja'farian, Khuzestan's governor general, has expressed regret at the fall in oil production and at the problems created for the people, particularly in Tehran, which has been caused by the shortage of petroleum products. He said: Because of postal and telephone threats, oil industry workers have stopped work.

The governor general, who returned to Ahvaz after a 2-day visit to Tehran, said in a telephone interview with our correspondent in Ahvaz that he regretted having seen in Tehran long lines of people to purchase kerosene and gasoline. In a message specifically addressed to oil industry workers, he said:

[Ja'farian--begin recording] I am speaking to the honorable and hard-working oil industry workers who have several times promised me personally--in writing and by telephone--that: We are under no circumstances prepared to see our compatriots have to face difficulties and a fuel shortage, particularly in this winter season.

I wonder who among them are preventing the others from working and are threatening them by letter and telephone to get them to stop the business of fuel supplies. What aims and thoughts do these people have? Could one believe that the workers have so completely forgotten their compatriot mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers--who, in the farthest corners of the country and in the coldest towns and hamlets, are looking out for and expecting the oil workers' affection--as not to pay heed to their crucial and pressing need? Compassion, mercy and kindness are an integral part of the Iranian ethos and exist in Iranian blood.

I think that with the situation which exists even in Khuzestan, from the standpoint of fuel shortages the workers who are engaged in oil industry services have come to their senses and as of tomorrow will resume their valuable services and gladden the hearts of the Iranian people of all age groups. Their eminences and the illustrious ayatollahs, too, are under no circumstances prepared to see--God forbid--a large number of Iranian people lose their lives because of a fuel shortage. We are hoping for the boundless high-mindedness of the oil industry workers. [end recording]

In his interview the governor general said that while in Tehran he met Abdollah Entezam, chairman of the board of governors and managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company, and had talks with officials about granting nationalized land to the housing cooperative companies of government workers and about the possibility of securing funds for development activities in Khuzestan Province.

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN TEHRAN, SHIRAZ, REZA'IYEH, ESFAHAN

LD281240Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Our correspondent reports that in demonstrations today in 25 Shahrivar Square in Tehran, two firefighting vehicles were set on fire, and in 24 Esfand Square a truck was burned.

In Shiraz, too, on the third day following the death of Dr Nejatollahi, a member of the scientific mission at Tehran's polytechnic college, ceremonies were held in the medical school of Shiraz's Pahlavi University. Later, those attending this gathering marched through the city's steets and clashed with security officers, who used tear gas and fired into the air to disperse the demonstrators.

According to our correspondent in Shiraz, shops in this city and in Jahrom have been closed today. Shops and the bazaar were closed in the town of Sarab, where a group of people held a march. In Tabriz, also, the bazaar and shops were closed; security forces are watching sensitive areas in the city.

In Reza'iyeh, too, shops were closed today and in Borujerd the lack of security caused shops and banks to close. Food stores have been attacked and in several parts of the city demonstrations took place which ended without incident thanks to intervention by security officers.

According to our correspondent in Esfahan, groups of people from this city, after obtaining permission from the military governorate, held a quiet march through the city. This was followed by a meeting in the Great Mosque. There were no clashes between the demonstrators and security forces.

In Yazd, a quiet march was held by various groups of people. The marchers then dispersed without any clashes with security officers.

So far we have received no other dispatches on security disturbances or demonstrations today.

Tehran Demonstrations

LD281245Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Scattered demonstrations took place in various parts of Tehran today.

Shah Reza and Sa'di Avenues and the old Shemiran highway and Sorayya Avenue were disturbed. Groups of 500-1,000 people, by blocking traffic at intersections, chanting slogans and setting fire to car tires, created traffic jams and forced drivers to stick slogans on their automobile windows written by the demonstrators themselves. Security officers dispersed the demonstrators by firing into the air and throwing tear gas grenades.

Gasoline, Bakery Lines

LD281300Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Traffic in Tehran today was lighter than in previous days and in some streets long lines of people attempting to buy kerosene could be seen. So far, 18 gasoline distribution centers have been closed for lack of petroleum products.

Our correspondent reports that some people are hoarding kerosene and gasoline in excess of their requirements, which means that many people cannot obtain either product. In addition to the lines for kerosene and gasoline today, long lines can be seen outside bakeries.

TEHRAN RADIO URGES PEOPLE TO CUT KEROSENE CONSUMPTION

LD281305Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Long lines, mainly of women and children, outside centers for the sale and distribution of kerosene undoubtedly constitute a sad scene for every Iranian. In this critical situation, with the cold winter weather and the shortage of this vital substance, we ourselves, the people, should think of a solution and should not do anything to add another problem to our other problems and those of various families. We should be content with minimum fuel requirements. We whould refrain from excessive kerosene consumption at home or should build a fireplace. People should economize on heat by shutting the doors of rooms.

Other nations in critical times, during the long days of war, by observing economy and a sense of fair play have managed to put up with their problems and have saved themselves from the brink of disaster.

Now that we are all gripped by this crisis, let us join hands and endure this problem through foresight and humanitarianism and, as we have just said, we should not add another problem to our problems.

FUEL CRISIS INCREASES BAKERY, TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

LD281710Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] An informed official from the military governorate of Tehran and district reported today that following repeated telephone calls from flour manufacturers in Tehran, as a result of a power cut in flour mills the production of flour for the capital is facing difficulties. Meanwhile, as a result of insufficient fuel, the transport of flour to the bakeries will not be possible.

The official added: Representatives of Tehran bakeries have also made it known that as a result of insufficient fuel, they will soon be unable to distribute as usual and the supply of bread will end.

Similarly, according to representatives of taxi drivers and Tehran and district buses, because of lack of gasoline the movement of public transport is difficult.

The Tehran military governorate wishes to inform all Tehran citizens that should there be any doubts about the shortage of fuels because of certain rumors, the representatives of the religious leaders, the guilds and various classes of the people can inspect the oil depots around Tehran and witness at firsthand the truth of the remarks by the spokesman of the National Iranian Oil Company about the depletion of the depots' oil reserves.

PRIORITY SYSTEM WORKED OUT FOR POWER CONSUMERS

LD281715Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] We continue this hour's news with a statement issued by the Energy Ministry. The statement was put out a few minutes ago by the ministry:

The Energy Ministry regrets very much to inform all our people that as a result of a cut in gasoline and gas oil the Loshan and Rig power stations, which were run exclusively on these two petroleum products, have stopped producing energy and as of today the power consumed by the major and medium industries has perforce either been cut or they have been requested to reduce their consumption to the minimum so as not to create problems.

While apologizing to the workers in these industries, so that electricity services for the people countrywide and particularly in the national grid may continue as far as possible, industry energy workers have worked out a special program to secure power services for the various consumers, with the use of hydroelectric stations and the insignificant reserves of fuel oil which exist in thermal powerplants, while priorities are given to the following: first, hospitals, dispensaries and mosques; second, household subscribers, factories producing foodstuffs and gasoline pumps; third, commercial subscribers, particularly bakeries and shops; fourth, small workshops.

In order to carry out the above, cooperation from all our people is very necessary, and the industry's workers sincerely request all people, in whichever way possible, to bear in mind the maximum economy in the consumption of electricity and to look at every electrical appliance with a view to switching it off.

The power industry workers are hopeful that the normal flow of oil and fuel substances will be resumed as soon as possible and that this emergency program and its unsettling results will not be long term.

TEHRAN FURTHER REPORTS INCIDENTS IN CAPITAL, PROVINCES

LD281752Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] In Tehran's Kurosh Kabir Avenue today, opposite the Pacific cinema, subversives on the roof of a house opened fire on security officers and pedestrians and as a result several pedestrians were wounded.

In another part of the city of Tehran several armed subversives opened fire on the inhabitants of several houses, whereupon security officers, aided by the local inhabitants, arrested four of these people and seized their arms.

Opposite the Pasargadae hospital, during a shoot-out, an air force warrent officer was hit by several bullets and was taken to the same hospital where he underwent surgery.

At a junction on Villa Avenue a number of parked cars were destroyed by demonstrators and one car was set on fire.

As for other cities, at 0945 this morning three subversives at Tanjan's Amir Kabir crossroads tossed a handmade bomb at a police car but the bomb did not explode and the security officers arrested all three subversives.

According to a dispatch from our correspondent in Mahabad, the city's bazaar was closed today and commercial and business operations came to a halt.

In Shirz, too, following the meeting by the university staff and students at the medical school of Pahlavi University at about 1200 today a group of people held marches on several streets. In the course of these marches the participants, by setting fire to car tires, disrupted motor and pedestrian traffic. During today's demonstrations in Shiraz, which lasted into the afternoon, a clash took place between officers and the people as a result of which three officers and four soldiers were wounded.

This morning demonstrations took place in several places in the city of Abadan which resulted in intervention by security officers. By firing into the air and throwing tear gas the officers dispersed the demonstrators. According to eyewitnesses, in the course of these demonstrations several people were wounded. A number of demonstrators, who were mainly youths, were arrested by security officers.

In the city of Sanandaj, scattered demonstrations took place in which security officers intervened and as a result five persons were wounded and taken to the city's Pahlavi hospital.

Scattered demonstrations also took place throughout Kermanshah district and the demonstrators smashed the windows of several shops and set fire to an ambulance.

According to dispatches from our correspondents, scattered demonstrations also took place in the towns of Rasht, Khorramabad, Haft Gel, Agha Jari, Nowshar, Amol and Dehloran. According to the same reports in all the towns long lines of people and motor cars could be seen outside kerosene shops and filling stations, all waiting their turn.

AFP: DEMONSTRATORS RAMPAGE THROUGH TEHRAN 28 DEC

TA281135Y Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, 28 Dec (AFP)--Anti-shah demonstrators rampaged through the heart of Tehran today, setting cars ablaze, breaking windows and overturning buses. Helmeted Iranian troops fired into the air in a vain bid to break up the rioting, latest in a wave of anti-shah disturbances that has wracked Iran for months.

Outside the U.S. Embassy, police threw up a tight security cordon to hold back demonstrators shouting anti-American slogans.

Clashes in Ahvaz, Shiraz

TA281756Y Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28 (AFP)--Four people were killed today when members of the police and the army clashed with doctors and oil industry trade unionists inside a hospital in Ahvaz, (south-west Iran) opposition sources said here. The army reportedly opened fire inside the hospital. An unspecified number of people were wounded, and several arrests were made, the sources said.

Two other people were killed and 40 were injured during an anti-government demonstration in Shiraz, the sources added.

Tehran Demonstrations After Curfew

TA282049Y Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 28 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 28 (AFP)--Three people were killed today in a spate of anti-shah demonstrations throughout Tehran, informed sources said. The latest demonstrations broke out soon after the night curfew came into effect at 2100 local time (1700 GMT) with opponents of the shah chanting slogans from windows or rooftops.

Army troops were reported to have used their weapons but it was not known whether there had been any casualties tonight.

Throughout the day pamphlets calling on the people of Tehran to demonstrate had been distributed in the city's largest cemetery where funerals for recent victims of anti-shah protest marches were held.

29 Dec Report

TA290931Y Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29 (AFP)--Soldiers were firing towards anti-shah demonstrators here this morning and several people had been wounded before noon, many reliable witnesses said.

Small, mobile groups of about 50 protestors were shouting "Death to the Shah" and "Long Live Khomeyni" in several parts of the business district.

Helicopters were hovering over central Tehran, which seemed deserted because of the Moslem sabbath.

Opposition spokesmen affirmed that 14 people were killed during demonstrations in the capital yesterday and 28 others were wounded.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 people gathered in the holy city of Mashhad, in the east of Iran, to protest against Saturday's violence in which 21 people died. Eighty political prisoners and 2,000 common law prisoners in Mashhad prison were released following a mutiny in the jail, a reliable source said here. In return, the mutineers released ten policemen that they had been holding as hostages.

In Ahvaz in the south of Iran, where four people were killed and 35 wounded in clashes yesterday, troops opened fire during clashes with demonstrators. Meanwhile 200 doctors began a hunger strike yesterday evening in the hospital building in protest, according to a reliable source.

OPPOSITION MP CALLS FOR SHAH'S ABDICATION

WA281645Y London REUTER in English 1607 GMT 28 Dec 78 WA

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 28, REUTER--Dozens of Iranians died in fresh anti-government rioting today amid official warnings that the country has only a week's supply of oil for domestic needs.

At least 30 people were reported killed in clashes between anti-shah demonstrators and troops in the southern city of Ahvaz, and three more were killed in the northwestern city of Qazvin.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Ahmad Bani Ahmad today called for the abdication of the shah and for a transitional government, calling this "the only political solution if the present tyrannical regime and its international supporters wish to avoid catastrophic confrontation with the people."

Mr Bani Ahmad is a moderate politician and a member of the lower house of parliament.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the Ahvaz deaths, which were reported by an Iranian doctor who told REUTERS by telephone that "about 30 to 40 people have been killed and more than 15 injured in gunfire." The doctor said nearly 10 bank branches and the offices of the national airline had been set ablaze, adding: "Troops have entered a city hospital, which is surrounded by tanks." He said soldiers cordoned off the hospital after learning that doctors planned to stage a march from there.

QAZVIN MILITARY GOVERNORATE ON CURFEW HOURS, CASUALTIES

LD281330Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The military governorate of Qazvin and district announced that as of tonight the curfew hours of 2100 to 0500 will be changed to 2000 to 0600. According to a report from the military governorate of Qazvin and district, yesterday a group of demonstrators set fire to several shops and a truck and started fires in the streets. The group set fire to houses and attacked the gendarmerie regiment, forcing the security officers to defend themselves. As a result of opening fire three persons were killed and two were wounded.

AYATOLLAH KOHMEYNI CALLS FOR DAY OF MOURNING 30 DEC

AU281525Y Rome ANSA in English 1515 GMT 28 Dec 78 AU

[Text] Paris, December 28 (ANSA)--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the leader of Iran's Shi'ite Muslims and the key figure in the opposition to Shah Reza Pahlavi, today launched another appeal to the Iranian people from his residence in exile in Neauphle-le-Chateau, outside Paris. "It is necessary for the Iranian people to continue their struggle until independence, until liberty and until Muslim government is created," the ayatollah declared.

The religious leader also named December 30 "a day of general mourning" for homage to be paid to "the victims of the massacre" in Iran. He went on to call Iranians to back the nationwide oil workers' strike, which has shut off exports from the world's number two producer, and proclaimed that, "the past year was a year of national mourning."

"If the shah remains in power," the ayatollah warned, "the situation will remain unchanged."

AFP: KHOMEYNI ASKS FOR RENEWAL OF FRENCH VISA

TA291020Y Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP)--The exiled Iranian opposition leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has asked for the renewal of his visa to stay in France, a reliable source said here today.

Ayatollah Khomeyni arrived in this country on Oct. 5 and his visa is due to expire on Jan. 5. The Shia Moslem leader has been staying in the town of Neauphle-le-Chateau west of Paris but will soon move elsewhere in the Paris region.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN RADIO AZERBAIJANI PROGRAMMING

TA261439 [Editorial Report TA] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani at 1745 GMT on 22 December, after announcing that it broadcasts daily, carries two commentaries which were heard with poor reception. The first, entitled "Shah Abandon Confrontation," says that the struggle against the "shah's despotism" continues and "the wounded snake is in its death throes," despite the blood being shed by the shah's British- and U.S.-made tanks. It says the shah "shamelessly continues his revanchism." It asks: "What can the country expect from such a hangman who is the lackey of U.S. and Western monopolies?" The commentary also calls for the nationalization of oil. It asserts: "The aim of all ethnic groups and political factions and organizations of the country is the same--the shah must go."

The second talk also denounces the "shah's bloodthirsty regime," in this connection mentioning oppression of workers and persecution of journalists, writers and broadcasters. It stresses that "the shah's oppression violates both the constitution and human rights." The entire 15-minute cast was devoted to the two commentaries.

At 1745 GMT on 23 December the radio carries a commentary whose title could not be identified, again criticizing the shah for "using murderous weapons to kill the people" and criticizing the United States for supporting him. The commentary refers to the U.S. Embassy and the CIA; very poor reception precludes identification of the context. It also criticizes the American presence in Iran. The radio then carries a second commentary stressing the need for the "establishment of a national and democratic government."

At 1745 GMT on 24 December the radio carries an untitled commentary condemning "the shah's despotic regime" and praising "the country's brave and courageous people who want an end to the despotic regime and to U.S. influence and domination in the country." It criticizes the United States for supplying the police with all sorts of weapons and means of persecution, "which have caused hundreds of thousands to shed tears." It says the people's struggle against the shah's despotism and American domination will continue.

Further Report

TA271941 [Editorial Report] National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Azerbaijani at 1745 GMT on 26 December carries a commentary entitled, "Distrust for the Shah," which, after noting that Iran's oil belongs to the people, says that the people have revolted because "they do not want exploitation by American imperialism."

The commentary says that in demonstrations held in Tehran the people shouted "Death to American imperialism," and that "if the Americans withdraw their hands from Iran, the oil will belong to the people." It says Iranian oil workers, technicians and engineers want the oil for the Iranians--they do not want American and British monopolies. "The oil money is used to buy arms from the U.S. to strangle the Iranian people." After stating that Iranian oil should be nationalized, the commentary declares: "Americans! Hands off the Iranian oil!" The commentary goes on to say that Americans and foreigners should not be allowed to interfere in the country's internal affairs. It says: "The shah is using the armed forces against the people with the help of U.S. arms." It claims "the regime is under the control of the American advisers and military."

The commentary says: "Demonstrations are a reaction to this criminal regime which is massacring the people." It says: "Despite the U.S. support the shah's regime is sinking into a deeper crisis. Our country's patriotic fighters are struggling against the Americans. Be it in Tehran on in other cities, Americans are meeting with the hostility of the patriots." The talk concludes that "Despite U.S. support and the presence of thousands of U.S. military advisers and spies in Iran, the shah will be ousted. The struggle will continue until the regime is overthrown and a national and democratic government comes to power."

LATE REPORT: AFP SAYS BAKHTIAR MAY FORM GOVERNMENT

TA291153Y Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 29 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec 29 (AFP)--Shapur Bakhtiar, a member of the National Front of Iranian politicians opposing the shah, has reportedly agreed to form a new government, a reliable source said today. Mr Bakhtiar conferred with the shah last night, it was learned.

Though Mr Bakhtiar was reported to have tentatively agreed to head a new government, members of his entourage said he and the shah merely examined possibilities of finding a formula acceptable by both sides, and that further contacts would be made.

The subject of forming a new cabinet was still under discussion in the National Front, Mr Bakhtiar's associates said.

The chairman of the front, Karim Sanjabi, recently refused to work with the shah when summoned to a talk with him, and demanded his abdication. Mr Sanjabi repeated this demand during a demonstration against the shah here on Tuesday.

30 DECEMBER SENATE SESSION POSTPONED

LD291250Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Senate will not have an open session tomorrow. Following the report on convening an open session of the Senate, which was due to be held tomorrow, it was learned today that tomorrow's session will not be convened and that the date of its convening has been postponed.

RADIO, TV PROGRAMS CURTAILED TO SAVE ENERGY

LD291114Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In view of the fuel shortage in the country the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization [NIRTO] has revised the transmission of its programs with the aim of economy in energy consumption. In accordance with the changes introduced here as of today, the programs of the Voice of Iran and Radio Two will be combined and will be simultaneously broadcast by the transmitter of the Voice of Iran. The television programs of the Profile of Iran and Television Two have also been combined and, starting this afternoon, the two networks' programs will be broadcast by the transmitter of the Profile of Iran.

Radio Tehran and international radio and television, while reducing the number of hours for the transmission of their programs, will continue their operation.

The combining of the radio and television programs has taken place with the aim of economizing on fuel consumption, and the radio and television programs will be transmitted in this way until oil production returns to normal.

TEHRAN RADIO DENIES WATER SHORTAGE IN CITY

LD291118Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] The hard-working staff of the Tehran Water Board continue their efforts to secure drinking water for the people and, therefore, any rumors about the cutting or shortage of water in Tehran is entirely without foundation and devoid of truth.

AFGHANISTAN

PACT, COMMUNIQUE MARK SRV FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

For reportage on the activities of SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh during his visit to Afghanistan 21 to 26 December, see the Vietnam section of the 26, 27 and 28 December Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

BANGLADESH

AWAMI CHIEF SETS CONDITIONS FOR ELECTION PARTICIPATION

OW271815Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1755 GMT 27 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Dacca, 27 Dec (AFP)--Chief of Bangladesh's leading opposition party Awami League Abdul Malek Ukil today announced that his party would take part in coming parliamentary elections "if President Ziaur Rahman retires from the army."

Mr Ukil, a former speaker and minister in late Sheikh Mujib's government came down to this one-point recondition for Awami League's participation in polls at a public meeting at the southeastern port city of Chittagong, official agency BSS reported.

Mr Ukil's Awami League is one of several opposition political parties which early this month announced their decision not to participate in parliamentary elections now scheduled for February 12 unless their demands for lifting of martial law and making parliament sovereign were accepted.

Some of these opposition parties, including Muslim League, pro-Moscow National Awami Party (NAP), Communist Party, CPB, later changed their stand and decided to participate in polls, after President Zia's government conceded to some of the opposition demands and assured the holding of free and impartial voting.

Awami League chief described armed forces, of which Major General Ziaur Rahman is commander-in-chief, as asset of 80 million people of Bangladesh and said the forces should not be involved in direct politics for greater interests of the nation.

President Zia's new party BNP is contesting in elections and opposition parties say General Zia's direct campaign for his party puts them in disadvantageous positions.

DACCA REPORTS MORE SUPPORT FOR ZIA'S ELECTION PLANS

BK280921Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] More political parties, groups and organizations yesterday hailed the decision of fixing the date of parliamentary elections. They also hailed President Zia's address to the nation of Tuesday night in which he outlined the steps taken by him for restoration of democracy in the country.

The Bangladesh Labor Party, Haq group, at an extended meeting of its central organizing committee in Dacca yesterday hailed the president's speech. The Bangladesh minority community, in a statement congratulated President Zia for fixing the date of parliamentary elections and for making bold and realistic steps for restoration of democracy in the country.

Others who hailed the decision and congratulated the president include, among others, the secretary general of Khoda-i-Khidmatgar.

SRV FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES; PRESS RELEASE ON VISIT

BK281618Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Vietnamese vice premier and foreign minister, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, left Dacca for New Delhi this afternoon at the end of his 3-day visit to Bangladesh. He was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, and other officials.

A press release issued by the government says that Vietnam and Bangladesh have identified mutually beneficial areas of cooperation in the economic field. Both sides agreed to take appropriate steps for implementation of the first annual barter protocol signed last July within the framework of the trade agreement. The agricultural sector was also identified as another area of possible cooperation. Cooperation in the cultural, educational, scientific and technical fields will be explored through diplomatic channels.

The press release described the visit as useful in promoting friendship and cooperation.

Earlier in the morning, the Vietnamese delegation visited the rice research institute at Jaidevpur.

BARTER TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

BK281622Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh will export commodities worth 26 million pounds sterling to the Soviet Union next year under a barter protocol signed in Dacca today. The protocol envisages a commodity exchange of 15 million pounds sterling each way and the export of another 11.5 million pounds sterling worth of Bangladesh goods in return of the Soviet credit.

Under the protocol, Bangladesh will export to the Soviet Union raw jute, jute goods, jute carpets, tea, (words indistinct) (?specialized textiles), readymade garments, tobacco, timber and handicrafts. The list of imports includes raw cotton, kerosene oil, steel billets, pig iron, fertilizers, ballbearings, steel rolls, machinery, equipment and spare parts.

The eighth barter protocol was signed in Dacca today at the end of the 11-day long negotiations between the officials of the two countries. The commerce secretary, Mr Matiur Rahman, and the visiting Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, Mr I. T. Grishin, signed the protocol for their respective governments.

INDIA

SRV FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

BK281254Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh, arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day visit.

Welcoming him at the airport, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Somarenkra Kundu, said India and Vietnam are having very friendly and cordial relations, which were further strengthened during the visit of the Vietnamese prime minister to India. Referring to the war destruction in Vietnam, Mr Kundu reaffirmed that India will do everything possible for that country's reconstruction.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh said that his visit will further develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He described India as a very important neighbor which is pursuing a policy of peace and nonalinement. He expressed gratitude for the support and assistance India has extended to his country.

Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh will call on the prime minister this evening.

Talks With Vajpayee

BK291037Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Talks began in New Delhi this morning between the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, and the visiting deputy prime minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh. They were together for 90 minutes and are reported to have discussed the situation in Southeast Asia and bilateral economic matters.

MRS GANDHI: AGITATION AGAINST JANATA GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE

BK271700Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said that the party's agitation will continue against what she called the undemocratic acts of the Janata Party government. Speaking at a general body meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today, Mrs Gandhi said that the party is committed to nonviolent and peaceful demonstrations. The politics of violence has always been condemned by her party and attacks on leaders cannot be tolerated.

Regarding Congress unity, Mrs Gandhi said she is very much for it. She asked members to give their opinion about it before leaving Delhi. The opposition leader, Mr C.M. Stephen, also addressed the meeting.

JANATA PARTY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ON CONGRESS-I AGITATION

BK281702Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The National Executive of the Janata Party has expressed grave concern over the nature of the agitation launched by the Congress-I. In a resolution on the political situation adopted by the executive at its meeting in New Delhi today, it says that deliberately a challenge has been thrown to the democratic functioning of the country. Political differences are sought to be resolved in the streets, and Congress-I workers are engaging themselves in violent activities, including arson and sabotage. Determined efforts are being made to disrupt the normal functioning of the country.

The resolution says that the democratic life that was restored by the Janata government is sought to be undermined. What the Congress-I failed to achieve through the ballot box is sought to be brought about by planned violence.

It further says that the involvement of antisocial elements is the significant pointer. The National Executive, the resolution adds, is appalled to find Mrs Gandhi dismissing the hijacking of a plane as a prank, and (?there) is not a word of condemnation for acts of arson and sabotage resulting in great loss of life and property. Instead, she has given a call for intensification of the agitation. She has continued in her pursuit of denigration of parliament.

The resolution says that the National Executive is convinced that the people of India, who showed inspiring allegiance to democracy last year, will not hesitate to meet this new and insidious challenge. It is the task of all elements in society that cherish democracy to rally together and frustrate the plans of the Congress-I. The executive invites broad support for forging common action.

The National Executive has also called upon all state governments, irrespective of their party affiliations, to insure the protection of life, property and the normal avocation of the people. Anything else will mean forfeiture of the rights to rule, the resolution adds.

It has expressed confidence that the Janata Party will react with unity and determination to the resurgence of authoritarian forces.

Briefing newsmen, the party general secretary, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, said that the whole session today was devoted to the consideration of the political situation. Mr Atal Bihar Vajpayee initiated the discussion, in which about 20 members took part. Mr Hegde said that the National Executive has aksed the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, to again invite Mr Charan Singh and his supporters, who stayed away from today's meeting, to attend tomorrow's session. Other prominent members who did not attend include Mr Raj Narain, Mr Rabi Roy and Mr Shayma Nandan Mishra. Mr Chandra Shekhar said that he will talk to them on this matter. He added that in the interests of the party, the differences should be resolved.

The National Executive is expected to review the progress made in the implementation of the party's economic programs tomorrow. The sixth plan and the Ashok Mehta committee report on Panchayati Raj [the administrative council] will also come up for discussion.

DALAI LAMA REACTS TO REPORTED PRC STATEMENT ON HIS RETURN

BK231626Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1552 GMT 23 Dec 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP)--A spokesman for the Dalai Lama in Delhi today poured cold water on the reported Chinese statement that they would welcome the Tibetan leader to return home.

Commenting on the Peking reports, Rinchen Sadutshang, spokesman at the Dalai Lama's office in India, said here: "This has come earlier also but nothing came out. Merely stating he is welcome will not do and unless they (Chinese) spell out on what terms and conditions we will not be able to comment on it."

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 followed by 70,000 Tibetans since living in this country.

PAKISTAN

HAQ LEAVES FOR ALGIERS TO ATTEND BOUMEDIENE FUNERAL

BK281612Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Rawalpindi this afternoon for Algiers to attend the funeral of Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The funeral takes place tomorrow. The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, is accompanying the president.

The president was seen off by the deputy chief of army staff, federal ministers, the ambassadors of Algeria and Saudi Arabia and diplomatic representatives of other Arab countries.

There will be 7 days of official mourning in Pakistan as a mark of respect for the late president. The Pakistan flag will fly at half-mast tomorrow, the day of the funeral.

CHIEF JUSTICE ASSUMES OFFICE OF ACTING PRESIDENT

BK281730Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, today assumed the office of acting president. He was administered the oath of office in Lahore this evening by the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammed Akram. Later, the acting president administered the oath of office of acting chief justice of the Supreme Court to Mr Justice Mohammad Akram.

According to an official announcement, the acting chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee and chief of the naval staff, Admiral Mohammad Sharif, will act as the chief martial law administrator during the president's absence abroad.

SRI LANKA

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES CONCERN TO OPEC OVER OIL PRICE HIKE

BK241111Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Nameed has drawn the attention of the oil-producing countries to the serious situation that oil-importing nonalined and developing countries will face during 1979 as a result of OPEC's latest decision. Mr Hameed has specifically stressed that the price increase will undermine the development programs of these countries unless early steps are taken to work out a formula which will provide some relief to them.

In a letter to the chairman of OPEC and also to all foreign ministers of OPEC countries, Mr Hameed has pointed out that it is urgent and imperative for OPEC to formulate concrete measures of assistance to the oil-importing nonalined and developing countries.

Mr Hameed has requested the OPEC chairman to bring to the notice of the organization's membership the deep concern of the nonalined and other developing countries about the latest decision to increase oil prices. He is expected to take further initiatives in consultations with nonalined and other developing countries in the near future.

The OPEC decision announced last weekend to increase oil prices will impose a heavy burden on oil-importing nonalined and other developing countries. Sri Lanka itself will be called upon to pay a very heavy increase for its imports of oil as a result.